

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXIV.]

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, 11TH AUGUST, 1906.

No. 6

CONTENTS.

| | PAGE |
|--|------|
| Epitome..... | 81 |
| Leading Articles:— | |
| What It Amounts To | 82 |
| China's Exports | 82 |
| Garbled History | 82 |
| An Established Anomaly | 83 |
| Hongkong Tonnage | 84 |
| Hongkong Sanitary Board | 84 |
| Supreme Court | 86 |
| Canton | 86 |
| Vital Statistics of Hongkong | 87 |
| Missions to Seamen | 87 |
| Company Meetings:— | |
| United Asbestos Oriental Agency | 87 |
| Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd. | 87 |
| Opportunity to get a Telephone Canton-Hongkong | 88 |
| China's Foreign Trade | 88 |
| Notes from the North | 88 |
| Review | 88 |
| Home and China Affairs | 89 |
| Correspondence | 89 |
| No Dragon, but a Toad | 89 |
| Reform in Shanghai Teahouses | 89 |
| American Prisoners in Shanghai | 89 |
| Commercial | 90 |
| Shipping | 92 |

BIRTH.

On July 31st, at Shanghai, the wife of H. W. ROBERTSON, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

On July 25th, at Bombay, Lieut. HENRY MORLAND, Royal Indian Marine, only son of the late Capt. Sir HENRY MORLAND, Indian Navy, to LILIAN, only daughter of W. J. CRIGHTON, Esq., of Whalley Range, Manchester.

DEATH.

On August 1st, at Swatow, JOHN PENDER, late chief engineer of S.S. Nanshan.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English Mail of July 13th arrived, per the ss. *Malta*, on Thursday, the 9th inst.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

Mr. Archibald Little is reported seriously ill at Itohaiho.

A Japanese consulate at Canton will be opened on 6th September.

Mr. William Silver Hall, for fifteen years a resident at Tokyo, is dead.

Lieut.-Col. C. L. Josling, R.A.M.C., has been appointed a member of the Sanitary Board, in succession to Lieut.-Col. C. S. Sparke, R.A.M.C., resigned.

The new Chinese gunboat *Chu-yu* was launched at Kobe on July 31st. She is the third of a series of six whose dimensions we have previously recorded.

The first-class battleship *Satsuma*, 19,000 tons, and the cruiser *Kurama*, 14,600 tons, now under construction at Yokosuka, will be launched in September.

The King has been pleased to give directions for the appointment of Sir Henry Spencer Berkeley (Attorney-General), to be of His Majesty's Counsel for the Colony of Hongkong.

Col. C. D. Bruce has reached Weihaiwei after travelling overland from India through Kashmir, Tibet, and Turkestan. He marched for six weeks without seeing a human being or habitation.

A new waterboat, built by the Dock Company for the Union Water Boat Company, and launched on Aug. 4th, underwent her trial trip on the 7th, when the results proved most satisfactory.

The death took place at the Yokohama General Hospital on July 20th of Mr. Thomas McMurray, marine engineer, of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Shanghai. He ceased was 49 years of age.

The partial lunar eclipse on August 4th was plainly visible at Hongkong. The dragon bit off rather more than Viceroy Shum's proclamation foretold, about a quarter being apparently overshadowed.

The *Gazette* announces that the new road, which runs from Harlech Road at High West Gap to the western extremity of Robinson Road at its junction with Conduit Road, is hereafter to be known as Hatton Road.

It has been decided to hold a great Japanese exhibition from April to October 1912. The estimated expenditure is Yen 10,000,000. A special building will be provided for foreign exhibits relating to science, machinery, electricity and industry.

Owing to the good crops of tobacco throughout the country the Japanese Tobacco Monopoly Bureau expects to earn Yen 30,000,000 during the current fiscal year. It is stated that the Monopoly Bureau intends to find land in Korea for the cultivation of tobacco.

The German *Imperial Gazette* announces that Sir Robert Edward Bredon, Deputy-Inspector-General of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs, has received the second class of the Order of the Royal Crown of Prussia, with the star, and Mr. A. T. Piry, Director of Customs at Peking, the third class of the Order of the Red Eagle.

At the Public Works Department on the 7th August the rights of erecting and maintaining two temporary Piers over Crown foreshore were sold by public auction. The first was the right with regard to the Crown foreshore in front of Waterloo Road, Yaumati. The pier there is to be 75 feet, by 13 feet, the term being one year, and the upset price \$250. This right was secured by Mr. Li Shun Fan, for \$200. The second right sold was that in regard to the Crown Foreshore opposite Marine lot 81, East of Kowloon, the pier to be 50 feet by ten feet. The upset price was \$50. Messrs. Chun Yik and Co. purchased this right for \$260.

General Bragg, formerly American Consul-General at Hongkong, has been pensioned. A bill had to be passed by the Senate to grant the veteran fifty dollars a month for life.

An interesting ceremony took place at Hangchow on July 28th, when the Customs, postal, and likin staffs celebrated the 25th year of service of the Commissioner, Mr. P. von Tanner.

It was proposed to the Chinese Government some time ago, says *L'Echo de Chine* that the European calendar should be adopted. The Ministers were on the point of consenting when the Director-General of Atmospheric Studies persuaded them that the Chinese calendar was much more rational and superior to the European calendar. The project was then abandoned.

A scheme is on foot among the leading business men of Tokyo and Osaka to establish a large iron foundry at Tairen for manufacturing rails, material for shipbuilding, etc. It is proposed to use Fuchun and Yantai coal for driving the machinery, and to import iron ore from the Taiya Mine in China. The capital of the works is fixed at about Y30,000,000. It is also proposed to engage four or five experts from England or America to superintend.

The financial position of the Rangoon Municipality is said to be serious. "At the present moment the town is indebted to two banks in respect of loans for waterworks and drainage to the extent of Rs. 11,490,000; against this heavy liability there is a sum of Rs. 585,990 in 3½ per cent. Government securities in the Sinking Fund. Consequently the net liability chargeable against municipal funds with the new loan now needed will leave Rangoon in debt to the extent of a little over one crore thirteen and a quarter lakhs of rupees."

The members of the Hongkong Volunteer Troop had an enjoyable rehearsal on Sunday of a gymkhana they are getting up, with novel features. The rehearsal took place at Deep Water Bay. The event is expected to take place in about a fortnight, but whether on this or the other side of the island is not yet settled. Many civilians would gladly watch the proceedings, if permitted. From all accounts they are calculated to improve the service efficiency of the Troop to a remarkable extent. We hear that his Lordship the Bishop is protesting at the breach of Sabbath observance in this connection. [Later] We learn that the event is to be held on Saturday, 18th inst.

The new Board of Trade rules, as we said before, will not alter the shipping statistics of Hongkong, as these are based on the nett registered tonnage. By a slip the word gross instead of nett was used in our account of the interview with Mr. James MacDonald, Government Marine Surveyor, in consequence of which the *Straits Times* was led to infer that if Singapore's shipping were treated in the same way it would almost equal that of Hongkong. But there is not much prospect of that coming to pass for some time. Hongkong is still a long way ahead of Singapore. The new load line will alter the displacement tonnage or dead-weight capacity of a ship but it will not alter the registered tonnage. Practically all shipping is calculated on the net registered tonnage.

WHAT IT AMOUNTS TO.

(Daily Press, 6th August.)

We have been greatly struck by the letter of "a Long-Gowned Chinaman", which we to-day reproduce from the columns of our Shanghai contemporary, the *N.-C. Daily News*. It is an exceedingly clever letter, as will become at once apparent to any foreigner who will read it with the assumption that he is, personally, called upon to answer it. With the remarks that happened to evoke it, we have no concern. It is evident that the letter, with scarcely any modification, would fit almost any of the modern foreign comments on China appearing in the foreign press. The Chinaman, whose long gown indicates his social position, observes to begin with that there is something Pharisaic about the criticisms by the average foreigner of things Chinese. All critics expose themselves to this charge, of course, since to point out real or imagined defects in others implies some sort of assumption that the critic is personally above such defects. Yet if the foreigner occasionally airs his superiority in the presence of the Chinese, it is not just to say that he claims for himself or his nation a character without blemish. Our long-gowned friend, to judge by his moderation of language, would readily admit that the foreign faults he hints at were first detected and denounced by foreigners. The "squeeze pidjin" detected in South Africa, in connection with British army stores, enjoyed this difference from Chinese official squeeze. It was not brazen. The British official is not taught to regard "perquisites" as proper things. He must not only avoid dishonesty, but he must avoid even the appearance of dishonesty. A British Judge announces in the course of a legal application to which there is no opposition that he holds shares in a trading firm concerned. He dreads the faintest appearance of a possibility of bias. In China, on the other hand, a great deal of squeeze is regarded as customary and proper. It is not considered dishonest. The oriental point of view is that it is unfair to muzzle the ox. According to their lights, perhaps the officials whom this long-gowned Chinaman admits to be corrupt, are no worse than anybody else. Whereas the British officer who pocketed cheques for commission knew, whether he admitted it or not, that he was a rogue. He knew also what his fellows would say if he were caught. That there are rogues and honest men on both sides is instantly admitted: that foreigners set a higher standard for their officialdom to live up to than the Chinese do is a not unreasonable statement for the foreign critic to make. It is when the gentleman of the long robe comes to the question of "China for the Chinese" that he is difficult to answer in terms of equity. "The Chinese officials in their duties are accountable", he says, "to the Emperor of China and to the people of China, and not to foreigners. If the Emperor of China and Chinese people prefer to have dishonest inefficient Chinese officials to manage their Customs and railways, that is their business; and foreigners, it seems to me, have no right to interfere." It is rather a poser, but fortunately the logician himself offers a loophole. As to the rights conveyed by the Treaties, he remarks, "the three hundred odd million human beings in China . . . will rise up one day and perhaps even come to Shanghai to ask—Who invested those Treaties with divine right?" That's just it. There is no China for the Chinese, because it belongs by right of conquest to the foreigner, and those Treaties are his

title-deeds. The Chinese, supposing they do prefer dishonest native officials to honest foreign ones, have received a great concession, for in spite of the three hundred odd millions referred to, events have occurred in the past which would have been quite sufficient excuse for the substitution of foreign officials everywhere, even on the Throne at Peking. For reasons that they do not boast about, the foreigners preferred to accept Chinese promises (contained in the Treaties), and no man, not even a Chinaman, has a right to break his promises. This is where the foreigner finds his right to urge reforms, in view of unfulfilled pledges. The appeal of the lamb, to the wolf's sense of justice, was wasted on the latter, though it moved old Aesop to pity. What Aesop would have thought if the lamb had offered the provocation of a kick, is just what the foreign critics of China have been saying all along. China is too weak to play the wolf (as in ancient times), and much too wicked to pose as the lamb.

CHINA'S EXPORTS.

(Daily Press, 7th August.)

China's exports are analysed in a second volume of part III., just received from the Statistical Department at Shanghai; and the tables being arranged in the same order as those recently dealing with imports, comparisons and cross-references are facilitated. It is immediately observable that China's exports have been a much more variable factor than her imports, although the table showing the values of produce sent to foreign countries since 1896 shows that they have almost doubled in the decade. Beginning with 131 million taels, the exports last year were valued at Tls. 227,888,197. The highest amount reached was in 1904, when the total exports were valued at Tls. 239,486,683. The table showing the direct export of Chinese produce to each country somewhat changes the precedence of the nations as given in connection with imports. Great Britain, which sold China more products than any other, ranks only fourth as a buyer. China's best customer in 1905 was Japan, with purchases worth Tls. 35,464,963. America came next, with Tls. 27,080,772, figures which go some way to explain the comparative failure of the boycott. The Chinese boycotter doesn't mind refusing to buy, but to refuse to sell to a good bidder must be a painful matter to him. France (with her overwhelming silk purchases) comes third, buying Tls. 18,872,233 worth, to Great Britain's Tls. 18,064,270. Germany was a comparatively poor customer, in view of her sales to China, and imported produce worth only Tls. 5,377,649. Macao was less than a million short of that (Tls. 4,823,693), while Italy, which we did not even mention as a salesman, beat her easily with purchases to the tune of Tls. 8,170,304. The direct export to Hongkong is put down at Tls. 81,452,643, and there is still the doubt as to whether that should be divided and apportioned to other countries, or whether it embraces the other figures. Presumably the former, in which case Great Britain would be found to have bought more than France, and perhaps some others. Direct exports to British colonies are thus set forth: Singapore, Straits, &c., Tls. 3,803,481; British India, Tls. 2,720,540; Canada, Tls. 406,391 (the Dominion is pushing her sales, but not improving as a buyer); Australia, New Zealand, &c., Tls. 71,928; and South Africa (including Mauritius), Tls. 55,252. The tables which take the items of produce

in alphabetical order naturally throw a good deal more light on the foregoing figures. Beancake, a commodity in which Europe has no interest, materially swells Japan's bill, with over six million taels. In fact, out of a total export of 2,897,948 piculs, Japan took 2,891,600 piculs. Another of Japan's bigger items is beans, of which she also took the bulk of the supply. It is perhaps worth noting that in 1905 Great Britain, which had previously bought small lots, took none at all. Of Tls. 363,868 worth of camphor exported, America took Tls. 1,557 worth, and Hongkong and Great Britain all the rest. Most of it was shipped at Foochow and southern ports. These tables offer occasional surprises, as when we find that China is actually exporting cigarettes. Korea is her best customer, with British India a good second. These are not foreign cigarettes re-exported, either. Coal is an export that seems to have fallen off in the last two years. Of raw cotton, of which 789,273 piculs, worth Tls. 12,029,326, were exported, Japan was by far the largest consumer, taking 740,271 piculs, worth Tls. 11,284,892. Germany was the next biggest consumer, taking nearly five times as much as Great Britain. Korea took more than half the output of grasscloth. China hemp went mostly to Japan, though Belgium and Hongkong were good bidders. Italy takes about twenty-five per cent. of China's output of hides, the small amount tanned into leather going to Hongkong and Macao. There is a growing output of raw iron, of which Japan takes the lion's share, 409,241 piculs out of 413,209 piculs. Another of the surprises before alluded to, of the "coals to Newcastle" order, is an export of ten piculs of opium to British India. French Indo-China took 3,101 piculs out of a total opium export of 3,209 piculs. China sent out over three and a half million taels worth of paper, the bulk of which was absorbed by Hongkong, Singapore, and Indo-China. Real pearls worth Tls. 125,975 were exported, mostly to India. America was the largest buyer of white raw silk, taking nearly four million taels worth out of a total of Tls. 13,524,010. France took Tls. 3,757,286 worth, and Italy Tls. 3,115,539. The yellow variety (altogether Tls. 3,866,402 worth) went mostly to India (Tls. 1,493,086) with Italy, France, and Britain respectable purchasers. France led in other forms, except cocoons, of which Japan took nearly half. Poverty stricken Korea was the biggest consumer of silk piece goods (Tls. 717,694 out of a total of Tls. 8,897,627). France favoured pongees, as usual. Britain jumps into prominence as a buyer of straw braid, with scarcely a rival. The export of this has been growing rapidly. Britain also maintains its eminence as a tea-buyer, some figures for "black" being Britain, Tls. 5,216,073; Russia (overland) Tls. 1,564,025; and America, Tls. 1,251,384. Total 597,045 piculs valued at Tls. 12,721,213. In "green" America easily leads, taking Tls. 3,671,650, while Russia (European ports) takes Tls. 2,205,952, and Britain Tls. 1,329,672. Total export, 242,128 piculs, worth Tls. 8,292,474.

GARBLED HISTORY.

(Daily Press, 8th August.)

It is ever a dangerous as well as thankless task for a stranger in blood to attempt to criticise the finer details of policy of another nation. Mr. OSCAR TERRY CROSBY, an American traveller of acumen and intimate knowledge of external conditions, has been seeking to amend the policy of Great Britain in Central Asia, and her intimate relations

with Tibet, China, and Russia. Now Mr. CROSBY attacks his subject after a most enterprising journey through the regions in question, in the course of which he has studied in detail the geographical and geological conditions of the lands of which he speaks; he is an observant student of the peoples, and his little work "Tibet and Turkestan", written after an adventurous tour from Ush in Ferghana through Kashgar and Khotan, and thence through Western Tibet to Srinagar and Rawal Pindi, is an interesting and useful addition to our knowledge of these little explored districts. Unfortunately Mr. CROSBY possesses a good deal of that restlessness of imagination, which both in England and America may be described as one of the worst features of the political life of the day. In Mr. CROSBY's eyes the whole of our conduct in Asia from the time of DUPLEX to the occupation of Lhasa has not only been iniquitous, but actually in our own interest mistaken. Shutting his eyes wilfully to the fact that the seizure of the opium at Canton was only one of a series of attempted high-handed acts which rendered impossible any further negotiation, Mr. CROSBY insists in calling the war that ensued the "Opium War". As a fact the misunderstanding had far deeper roots. In the eighteenth century the provincial officials had welcomed the foreign ships, not from any personal friendly feeling, but that they reaped therefrom a large harvest. For the same reason they encouraged the trade in opium, which was carried on in what were known as "country ships", that is to say, ships owned by natives of India, flying indeed the British flag as being British subjects, but looked upon with jealousy, and even dislike, by the regular "Company" ships, who had the monopoly of the "Home" trade. The local officials claimed jurisdiction over all vessels trading in the port, but Chinese jurisdiction then, as now, being a mere matter of personal caprice, led continually to misunderstandings, usually compounded for by increased exactions on the trade. As the trade was profitable, these demands though vexatious came to be looked upon as one of the necessary charges, and were coincided in, with, however, protests more or less strong. This state of affairs might have continued for another century, but that with the lowering of the stamina of the Imperial House, and the increasing debauchery of the Court at Peking, the sponge came to be applied more persistently. Peking was represented at Canton by an imperial delegate known to the foreign residents as the Hoppo. According to immemorial Chinese custom the Hoppo, before proceeding, had to pay in hard cash the assessed value of the office; and with the increasing wants of the Court the solatium had to be continually increased. As this solatium had to be met by increased fees from the local officials, these latter tried to raise their demands on the foreign merchants till was reached the utmost limit possible for the existence of trade of any sort. This brought the local officials into unpleasant friction with the Court, whose extravagance continually demanded a larger share out of the profit that rumour alleged was derived from the foreign trade. The opium trade finally became the battle ground. Disappointed with his share of the fabulous profits supposed to be derived, the EMPEROR determined literally to kill the goose that laid the golden eggs, and sent down Commissioner LIN to be the executioner. LIN on his arrival found the task more difficult than he had anticipated, and that the entire body of the provincial officials were united against him. His

seizure of the opium led him into still further trouble, for it united both native officials and foreign merchants; and the weak action of Captain ELLIOT in trying to accommodate all parties brought affairs into such a general mess that Commissioner LIN, sorely against his own will, was compelled to burn the opium, and so destroy his own deeply-laid plot of acquiring the whole command of the opium market. Mr. CROSBY, having thus got hold of the wrong end of the stick, has, like Commissioner LIN, found himself compelled, out of a mistaken idea of consistency, to persevere in holding it to the end. The late little trouble with Tibet is thus logically the direct result of the iniquitous conduct of England in 1842. This is what Mr. CROSBY says. When Father Huc was in 1846 expelled from Lhasa, the Chinese Resident there was KISHEN; of him Mr. CROSBY informs his readers: "Will it not be sufficient to say that the Chinese official who chanced to be then at Lhasa was KISHEN, a man who had as signer under duress of a treaty at Canton in 1841, terminated (*sic*) the opium war, and had thus participated in his country's humiliation as well as in the disgrace of his country's enemy—England—more shameful in success than China in defeat? For fifty years the Peking Government had endeavoured to arrest the fatal traffic. Insignificant when the Mogul emperors ruled India, it had grown with the growth of British power. Declared illicit it had flourished in British hands; from British ships as depots it defied Chinese authority in Chinese ports. When for a season righteousness had prevailed; when a Christian English officer had yielded up twenty thousand smuggled poison cases to be destroyed; when they had been burned by "heathen" Chinese officers, zealous to protect their country from a curse, then a Christian Government declared war and forced by cannon's might a helpless people to admit the baneful drug. And even if not baneful, even if it were ambrosia, what shame to override—but why argue this unlucky cause? Let it not be rehearsed, for all have heard it, and let it not be forgotten in judging all Chinese-European history which followed. For in the sequestered valleys of Tibet the echo of British cannon was heard, a tocsin arousing every dormant suspicion against the white man."

Such is the over-coloured chromo that Mr. CROSBY would palm off on his readers as a genuine portraiture of the first war with China. Its inconsistencies would at once condemn it; but one of these may be referred to. So far was KISHEN from acting under duress, that his first attempt at treaty-making, accepted by Captain ELLIOT against the opinion of his advisers, was really only a ruse to procure the abandonment of the occupation of the Ch'wenpi forts, which once procured, the convention was the next day repudiated. And it was this instance of bad faith that more than anything else forced on the subsequent war. It is doubtless quite true that KISHEN did advise the Tibetans to expel Père Huc, but this was only in accordance with the traditional policy of the Chinese Government, and was no new departure, nor had it anything to say to affairs at Canton. The difficulties with Tibet which led up to the subsequent occupation for a few weeks of Lhasa were brought about by a very different conjunction of affairs. The present DALAI LAMA was the only one who, under the jealous administration of China, had been permitted to live till he had arrived at maturity, and the fact of his having so survived was

indicative of the declining influence of China over her dependency. The Tibetans had been trying by all means short of actual war to render themselves independent of China, and had indeed succeeded in inducing the intermediate provinces to practically revolt. When, then, the British Government, through Peking, endeavoured to make friendly terms with Lhasa; the DALAI LAMA, now come to full age, saw in the endeavour but a proof of an intention to refix the suzerainty which he hoped he had got rid of for ever. This it was, and not any abstract fear of British absorption, that led him to listen to the overtures of Russia. Mr. CROSBY professes to see no ulterior motives in Russia being anxious under any conditions to obtain a footing in Tibet; but he is pleased to ignore altogether Russia's unscrupulous conduct with regard to the evacuation of Manchuria, which was merely a part of the same wild game of universal sovereignty in Asia. Doubtless such a game carried in itself the seeds of dissolution; but none the less the powers immediately interested were bound to take notice in self-defence or deserve the fate justly marked out by providence for the effeminate amongst States as amongst individuals. Russia's game in Manchuria was boldly met by Japan, whose energy was rewarded by her success, and not only by her own immediate success, but by her exposure of the utter rottenness of her big foe.

Had not England taken up the challenge, thrown to her in the same spirit, and had Russia succeeded in bluffing Japan in Eastern Asia, there can be no doubt that we should have had to act the part of Japan, and engage in a war a la outrance. From that we have been saved by the promptitude with which Lord CURZON took up the gage. Comparisons are often rude, and a *tu quoque* retort is not usually edifying; we may, however, suggest it in this case. To a merely superficial observer, bent in closing his eyes to all but the narrowest issue, nothing could have been more opposed to all right, private or international, than the war of America against Spain. We, as English, and knowing how deep and long-seated had been the causes of dissatisfaction at work, refrained from unfriendly or irritating comment. We have certainly not lost the confidence of either side, with both of whom we are proud to be on friendly terms. It would be as well did Mr. CROSBY, and others of his kidney, who are everlastingly seeking occasion to judge their neighbours, take to heart the example.

AN ESTABLISHED ANOMALY.

(Daily Press, 9th August)

Nearly twelve columns of space in the Times of July 3rd are given up to consideration of orthodox religious differences of opinion, ten and a half containing an elaborate digest of the report of the Royal Commission on Ecclesiastical Discipline, and the rest is editorial comment. The old-fashioned idea that such matters are best ignored by newspaper men seems to have died out. Their intimate relation with everyday life seems, curiously enough, to be more recognised in these days of scepticism than when orthodoxy was the fashion. The same issue of the great London journal elsewhere shows the impossibility of discussing politics without introducing matters spiritual; public education, like vaccination and other things, cannot get away from the conscience clause. This tenderness for the individual conscience is directly hostile to the principle of establishment, although few seem to notice it.

The nation that tries to retain and defend an established orthodoxy contemporaneously with absolute individual freedom of opinion is bound to encounter difficulties. It is like trying to make ice in an oven and roast meat in a refrigerator. The most highly prized inheritance of the Briton is his right to refuse to conform in matters of opinion, to be a law unto himself in matters spiritual. The high churchmen whose doings caused the appointment of this Royal Commission were not so wicked as the vehement denunciations of those who witnessed against them seemed to suggest. They were merely exercising that freedom of conscience and religious liberty which the Briton prizes above everything else. As members of an established church, however, and presumably clinging to the privileges of establishment, they are held to have voluntarily surrendered that right and freedom which we regard as so important. Obviously the existence of this establishment is inconsistent with the genius of the general British law affecting its purview. Uniformity being out of date, its conservative value being unappreciated by a radical and iconoclastic age, the recommendations of the Commission will probably not be easily carried into effect. As the pen is said to be mightier than the sword, so conscience may be said to be more potent than the law. We have already noticed what respect the law pays to it. Some will argue for disestablishment; others for less toadying to individual conscience. Those who believe it to be important to preserve that organisation which alone can preserve an unchanging faith must look less kindly upon the individual freedom which the nation seems so set upon; on the other hand, those who appreciate this liberty of conscience cannot logically support any organisation whose principle is to keep the consciences of the community as near to one authorised pattern as possible. For instance, a letter in this issue reminds us that we have in this Colony a growing number of independent consciences that apparently prefer eclecticism to discipline. They disavow the woman EDDY and her writings, and claim that their Christian Science is simple Bible truth, which does not shut them out of the regular Church. The BISHOP, following the lead of his colleagues at Home, has declared otherwise, knowing that an established organisation with fixed principles must set its face against the individual conscience if it wishes to continue its existence. These people interpret the bible in one way; the Church, represented by the BISHOP, interprets it in another. Who is to settle the dispute, if not the established Church? If not the Church, why retain it, its occupation gone? The *raison d'être* of the Church is to promote and preserve uniformity of belief. The national church is the saviour of the national faith. If we have no national faith, if the national laws emphasise the desirability of individualism, by insisting on each man's right to his own belief or unbelief, why do we retain the stable for which we have no horse? Or is it that there are more horses than stalls? In any case, the situation is a puzzling one, and it would be rather interesting to learn just what the Chinese think of it.

The prospects for Indians in Panama have made many of the local police dissatisfied with their present position. Two dollars gold per diem is held out to these men, that being the wage for policemen, and besides the hundreds who have been attracted here from India many have left Hongkong for the scene of the new canal.

HONGKONG TONNAGE.

(Daily Press, 10th August.)

THE report of His Excellency the GOVERNOR to the SECRETARY OF STATE, concerning Hongkong affairs of 1905, although necessarily containing much information with which our readers are already familiar, makes interesting reading. It was presented to Parliament in June, and as Colonial Report No. 485 reached the Colony yesterday. Although there was an actual deficit on the year's working, of \$32,871.41, the statement of assets and liabilities at the end of 1905 shows that the Colony was solvent, with a surplus of assets amounting to \$772,206.81. There was a net decrease of 17,396 tons of the principal imports in European bottoms, as compared with the figures for 1904; but, as has already been noted with natural gratification, the total tonnage entered and cleared amounted to 34,185,091, being an increase of 622,305 tons, and the highest tonnage yet recorded. Nearly seven millions of it was British, or 38.6 per cent. Foreign shipping was represented by nineteen per cent. Steamers of under sixty tons accounted for 26.9 per cent., while the junks, of which an Australian critic made so much, represented only 15.5 per cent. Our Singapore contemporaries are reminded that the figures are based as usual on the registered net tonnage. Compared with the previous year, the figures analysed do not perhaps look quite so well, from a British point of view. There was an actual decrease of 36,410 tons in British ocean-going craft, and of 143,338 tons in British river steamers. Deep sea foreigners, on the other hand, increased by 469,938 tons, and foreign river steamers by 189,226 tons. The net increase in tonnage was more than half accounted for by the remarkable increase in steam launches plying in the Colony. It should, however, be noted that while British tonnage on the river decreased as stated, there was a big increase (1,616) in the number of ships engaged in this traffic; and foreign river steamers were fewer by 61, although the tonnage was more. The net result is flattering to the port's eminence as a port, if not as a British port. Thus far on the table itself; but HIS EXCELLENCY offers an admirable example of the danger of trusting to statistics unexplained. He says the decrease in deep sea British craft "loses any significance it may at first sight appear to possess when viewed in conjunction with my report for 1904, where an increase appeared of 352 ships of 930,300 tons, which was shown to be practically due to special circumstances connected with the late war. These special circumstances being removed with the advent of the Baltic fleet in Far Eastern waters in April, 1905, the shipping tended to return to its normal state." This normal state would still be unflattering to the British amour propre were it not shown that there is actually also a normal growth, evident in an increase over the figures for 1903 of 32 ships and 893,890 tons. The river trade inconsistency is explained by the statement that additional small steamers were put on to the West River run, "three moderate sized vessels were taken off the run early in the year, and much smaller craft substituted." The most satisfying explanation, however, is that which belittles the foreign increase. There was a big reduction in 1904 of Japanese ships, and "the increase now shown is but the partial restoration to normal conditions, and should really be read as a net decrease." Thus Hongkong may boast, not only of being the pre-eminent port with regard to tonnage, but

also of figuring creditably with regard to the growing frequency of the British flag. In actual numbers the visitors were 506 British and 383 foreign ships. These 889 ships entered 3,926 times, and gave a total tonnage of 6,756,600. There were four more visitors than in 1904, but they paid 61 less visits. The nationality of the steamers was mostly British (490), German (163), Norwegian (85), French (39), and American (22).

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on August 7th at the Board Room. The Hon. Dr. F. Clark (president) presided, and there were also present—Hon. Mr. W. Chatham (Vice President), Dr. Pearce, M.O.H., Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin, Dr. Macfarlane, Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett, Lieut.-Col. Joslin, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Mr. H. Humphreys, Mr. Lau Chu-pak, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (secretary).

RAT DESTRUCTION.

Voluminous correspondence was submitted relative to the use of sulphur dioxide for the destruction of rats on shipboard. Dr. W. PEARSE, M. O. H., wrote that having read the reports attached regarding experiments with the Clayton apparatus he saw no reason to alter his previously expressed opinion as to its usefulness. It was quite possible to render the holds, cabins, saloons, etc., of a ship reasonably airtight with little trouble. The Clayton gas being heavier than air might easily be retained at a high percentage for many hours in a ship. It did not follow, however, that this method would be quite successful in dealing with Chinese houses. It took nearly two days to close up Government House in order to fumigate it with formaline gas last year. He considered it practically impossible to render Chinese houses sufficiently gastight to get the best results with disinfection. Moreover, rats could not escape from a ship, but in a Chinese house it was absurd to think that rats could not find an avenue of escape. It was impracticable to render a Chinese house sufficiently gastight to maintain gas at a percentage of eight for two hours right through the building. The experiment already conducted on shipboard afforded no guidance, owing to conditions being so different from those prevailing in a Chinese house. For these and other reasons he considered that the experiments made by Professor Simpson furnished no evidence as to the general usefulness of the Clayton method of disinfection of Chinese houses in the Colony. For the disinfection of ships he considered the method was a useful one, but as pointed out by Dr. Haldane a considerable difference in the results might be expected to depend on whether the disinfection was done before or after the discharge of cargo.

The correspondence was laid on the table.

DIVIDING THE TWO DEPARTMENTS.

A further reply from the Government relative to the recommendations in connection with the Estimates for 1907 was read as under:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
4th July, 1906.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 30th June, 1906, submitting two resolutions adopted by the Sanitary Board with regard to the draft estimates referred to them at their meeting of the previous day.

With regard to the first of these resolutions I am directed to point out that it is not possible to divide the salaries of Sanitary Department officers between the Sanitary and Public Works Department estimates so as properly to represent the work they do for each department, but that if the Board recommend that an additional allowance, chargeable to the Public Works Department Estimates, should be given to those officers for work done for that department contemporaneously with the discharge of their Sanitary duties so as to follow the practice in the analogous case of the police officers referred to in the Board's resolution, that recommendation will be considered. With regard to the second resolution I am to state that His Excellency has decided in the absence of any reasons given by the Board to the

contrary and in view of the strong opinion expressed in Legislative Council in favour of a reduction of the Sanitary Department estimates that the unnecessary inflation of these estimates by the insertion of provision in them for district hospitals should be omitted, such provision (amounting last year to \$3,872) not having been made use of in the past and, owing to the dislike of Chinese to going into Government plague hospitals, not being likely to be required in the future. I have the honour to be sir, your obedient servant,

T. SERCOMBE SMITH,
Colonial Secretary.

To this the Sanitary Board replied, submitting that if His Excellency would consent to the appointment of a committee consisting of some of the members of the Board and the Building Authority, His Excellency would be able to obtain the necessary information to enable him to form an idea of the time devoted by the Sanitary staff to purely Building Authority work. The other resolution was that the Government be asked to reconsider the question of the retention in 1907 estimates of the votes for the district hospitals.

The Government reply was to the effect that regarding the first resolution, His Excellency was satisfied that the work done by the Sanitary staff under the Building Authority was in connection with the sanitary condition of the buildings and as such as fell within the duties of sanitary inspectors in England. It had been suggested to His Excellency that section 230 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance should be amended so as to authorise the Sanitary Board to deal directly in respect of all buildings which are or have been occupied for domestic purposes. This suggestion would receive consideration when the Ordinance came to be amended. In the meantime His Excellency did not consider it would be convenient or advisable to split up the salaries of certain officers between the votes for two departments, an arrangement which would moreover effect no saving to the public. With regard to the second resolution His Excellency after consultation with the Principal Civil Medical Officer and Registrar General had directed the insertion in the estimates of an item of \$2,000 as a grant-in-aid of Chinese plague hospitals, the grant to be made on the condition that these hospitals are under similar Government supervision as the Tung Wa Hospital and that the amount actually to be paid from it will not exceed the expenditure incurred on the hospitals.

The correspondence was laid on the table.

NEW WESTERN MARKET.

A letter was read from the Colonial Secretary reporting the completion of the new Western Market.

CLEANSING OPERATIONS SUSPENDED.

The M.O.H. reported on the expediency of suspending cleansing operations in Kowloon and the City of Victoria.

The President suggested that operations should be suspended till the end of September. We had now come to the end of the plague season, and he thought tenants might be given a rest.

Members concurred.

THE FOOD INSPECTOR QUESTION.

The COLONIAL VETERINARY SURGEON in a minute recommended the authorising of inspectors of markets and inspectors of cattle depôts and slaughter-houses to enter premises and inspect food.

The PRESIDENT hardly knew whether it was necessary for inspectors in charge of cattle depôts to be given this authority, but he thought the Board might consider whether inspectors of markets might be given the same authority as senior inspectors.

Mr. HOOPER said he was doubtful whether the authority already given should have been given to a number of what he might term subordinate officers—he applied that term to those below the rank of M.O.H. As such authority had been given, however, they were prepared to stand by it, but he did not see the slightest reason why it should be extended to inspectors of cattle depôts and slaughter-houses. These inspectors could have no idea of the existence of bad foods unless information was supplied them by other inspectors. Under these circumstances they should not enlarge on the resolution

proposed, seconded and carried at the last Board meeting; therefore he did not think the recommendations of the Veterinary Surgeon should be carried out.

Mr. HEWETT agreed with Mr. Hooper's views, and the Board decided to take no action in the matter.

MORTUARY FOR KOWLOON.

A minute by the Director of Public Works relative to the plan for the proposed mortuary for Kowloon was submitted. The site suggested was in close proximity to the disinfecting station.

NEW ORDINANCES AND OLD HOUSES.

Mr. John Lemm, architect, applied on behalf of the owners of Nos. 12 to 27, Po Hing Fong for an exemption from the provisions of section 180 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903.

The M.O.H. did not think there was any doubt that these houses were built in accordance with laws existing at the time of their erection. It was not required then that the open space in the rear of new buildings should be provided in the owner's own lot. However, as soon as the houses were completed they became existing buildings, and apparently subject to paragraph 55 of Ordinance 1 of 1901, or at any rate they might be affected by paragraph 175 of Ordinance 1 of 1903. The certificates already granted for these houses were valid, but he presumed such validity did not annul the requirements of section 175. This, however, was a matter for legal opinion. Regarding the question of exemption from complying with section 175, he would draw attention to the fact that these houses had no yards at all at present. Yards, even small ones, were desirable to provide some open space where household waste might be stored instead of being kept in the house.

The Crown Solicitor wrote that if Mr. Lemm's statements were correct it appeared that the D.P.W. and Sanitary Board in July, 1905, permitted the 15-foot lane at the back to count as a backyard. Mr. Bowley doubted whether this permission was not *ultra vires* when granted, but thought the Board should respect it and grant exemption from section 175 of Ordinance 1 of 1903.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK moved—Exemption should certainly be granted in this case. There is ample open space at the rear. The opening of yards in these houses, if insisted upon, will inflict great hardship on the owners and reduce the value of their properties. It is absurd to make the owners suffer so much simply because some open space is desirable for depositing the household refuse, which is removed every morning.

Members agreed that the Board recommend the Governor in Council to grant the modification.

THE CONCRETE QUESTION.

The PRESIDENT read the report of the committee appointed to inquire into the concreting of ground floors of certain houses at Mongkok, and moved the adoption of the report.

Mr. HOOPER seconded the motion. In doing so he took the opportunity of calling the attention of the Board to the way in which complaints were made and the means taken to rectify them. They had two distinct cases before them: one of 16 houses at Mongkok and the other of two European houses at Tsimshatsui. Taking the first 16 houses at Mongkok they were built according to laws and ordinances made, and under the supervision of an architect who had a good knowledge of good and bad material—at least they might presume so from the time he had had the honour to serve in the Public Works Department. A complaint was sent in by a senior inspector that these floors were out of order. The speaker asked that inspector when he visited the houses whether there was anything more wrong with the floors than he saw on the surface. The reply was that there was not, but the next thing the speaker heard was that another inspection had been made, and that an order was given to re-concrete the whole of the ground surfaces of five of these houses. It seemed to him to be analogous to the case of the doctor who was consulted about a case of prickly heat and cut into the flesh down to the bone to see if he could find any serious defect in the patient's flesh. There was no justification for any professional man supposing that this peeling of the surface was due to the ground underneath.

The floors of the sixteen houses he should characterise as fair, the majority of them good and he was using a very mild adjective when he said fair. The floors which they dug up with great difficulty showed clearly six inches of concrete, and only in some few cases was one inch deleteriously affected by water at the bottom. The President, who was a member of the committee, and the speaker had no hesitation in saying that the floor was good, and ordered it to be made good again at the public expense. Mr. Hooper now asked members to avail themselves of the opportunity of looking at the second case which dealt with backyards in Tsimshatsui. The yards there were concreted with two inches of cement. He secured some concrete from one of the yards which was ordered to be re-concreted, "and this" said Mr. Hooper, placing a few pounds of it on the table before the Director of Public Works, "is a sample of it." He did not think it required an expert, but only a man, woman or child with a little common sense, to see that it was perfectly impervious.

Mr. HUMPHREYS was sure everybody in Hongkong ought to be grateful to Mr. Hooper for what he had done in this matter. At the same time he thought it a pity that every time there was a difference of opinion between members of the P.W.D. and the Sanitary Board, a committee should be sent to examine. He thought in such cases it would be better to give the landlord the benefit of the doubt at once, and tell him to repair his yard. Section 112 of the Ordinance was not quite clear about the re-concreting of yards. It simply said the landlord or owner should make good. In nearly every instance there seemed to be a difference of opinion as to what was making good, and if the landlord had, as he had frequently in the past, to re-concrete yards, he was being put to a great expense which was absolutely iniquitous. He moved—"That in future cases where the surface concrete of yards is broken or is considered unsatisfactory, and where a difference of opinion exists between the Sanitary Board and the P.W.D., that the landlord be called upon to repair such yards and not to re-concrete them."

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK seconded the motion.

The President first put the motion for the adoption of the report, which was carried, then Hon. Mr. HEWETT said matters would be made more complicated if the Board accepted Mr. Humphreys' resolution. Clause 112 was enough to work upon. The resolution, he thought, would not make matters clear but more involved.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS said references had been made to differences of opinion between officers of the Sanitary and Public Works Departments. Concreting of floors was entirely under the control of the Board and the Public Works Department did not come into collision with the Board's men in the matter. The P.W.D. were sometimes asked to make inspections for the purpose of giving their opinion on the conditions of different floors, otherwise they had really nothing to do with the matter.

Mr. HOOPER said it was a case of the anomaly of the Ordinance. It seemed rather absurd that one part of a building should be concreted to the satisfaction of the Building Authority, who might require a higher standard than the Board's experts,—the Sanitary Surveyor or an ordinary inspector.

On Hon. Mr. HEWETT promising to consider the matter before the Commission, Mr. Humphreys withdrew his motion.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality statistics for the whole Colony civil population for the week ended July 14 show the death rate per 1,000 to have been 21.00. The death rate for the British and foreign civil population was 19.9 for the same period.

The Kanegafuchi Spinning Company has decided to construct a geared yarn spinning mill at an estimated cost of Y1,250,000; a twisted yarn mill at a cost of Y1,137,000; another for coarse yarn at a cost of Y1,531,000; and a mill in China at a cost of Y1,250,000. Looms will be installed at a cost of Y300,000. The foregoing was approved by a general meeting of the company last month.

SUPREME COURT.

Tuesday, August 7th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

A GUARANTOR'S LIABILITY.

Two cases were heard in which Mr. G. Hastings, trustee of the property of the Yue Fat Bank, sued Lau Wai-chun, compradore of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, to recover the sum of \$21,000 for money lent by the said bank to the Wong Fung Company, Wai Qun-shan and So Yu-tsai on February 18th, and for the repayment of which the defendant became guarantor; also to recover \$10,000 being money lent by the Yue Fat Bank to the defendant on January 12th.

Mr. H. G. Calthrop, instructed by Mr. G. Hastings, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. R. F. C. Master (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master), represented the defendant.

Mr. Slade said his client was prepared to submit to judgment in both suits, as the claims were perfectly accurate. As they had a large counter-claim against the managing partner of the plaintiff firm, he would, however, ask that execution be stayed. The managing partner of the plaintiff firm guaranteed a man named Yeung Tat-san, of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, as a shroff. This man absconded with the sum of \$7,000, which the defendant, as compradore of the bank, had to pay. The defendant was hopelessly insolvent, and if the plaintiffs went in for immediate execution all they could do was to put him in gaol and keep him there. If the stay of execution were granted it would be to their advantage.

Mr. Calthrop said if the defendant brought an action against the manager of the bank he had no possibility of getting any money as the bank was insolvent. They had been unable to get anything out of the bank manager, and it was not at all likely that defendant would.

His Lordship—Have you proceeded against this man?

Mr. Calthrop—I understand he has absconded. He was one of the partners of the bank of which Mr Hastings was trustee. The bank only paid 15 per cent., and if there was any money to be got out of this man we should have got it. It is over a year ago since the bank was declared insolvent, and this is the first we have heard of defendant's counter-claim. If we find there is a chance of his getting the money it is probable that the plaintiff will be reasonable.

His Lordship said in face of the plaintiff's petition he did not see his way to stay execution, and gave judgment for plaintiff and costs.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE Mr. A. G. WISE (POISNE JUDGE).

A BALANCE DISPUTED.

The Kung Tai firm sued Lau Tak-yuen, managing partner of the Kam Tak On firm to recover the sum of \$242.56 for work done and material supplied.

Mr. R. A. Harding appeared for the plaintiff, the defendant appearing in person.

Mr. Harding said the action was brought to to recover a balance of account for contract work done in connection with Rennie's flour mills in the New Territory. The total amount of the contract was \$1,195.60, and his client had received on account \$953.04, leaving the amount claimed due. The defendant was sued as managing partner of the defendant firm, and because he had received from Mr. Rennie \$43,000. He had not accounted to his partners for part of this money. The order was given to plaintiff by defendant.

Defendant stated that his firm owed the amount claimed. Another partner made the arrangements in connection with the work, but sometimes he made payments to plaintiff.

After hearing the evidence his Lordship gave judgment for plaintiffs with leave to issue immediate execution.

Thursday, August 9th.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

ADJUDICATED BANKRUPT.

Re Ng Sui-king *ex parte* Wong Sui.

This was an application by Mr. F. P. Hett (of Messrs. Brutton and Hett) for adjudication, and for the appointment of Mr. Brutton as trustee.

Mr. Hett said in an affidavit he filed he stated that a receiving order was made on July 26th, and the first general meeting of creditors was held on August 3rd, when it was resolved that the debtor should be adjudicated bankrupt and Mr. Brutton appointed trustee.

Mr. Wakeman, Official Receiver, said he had no objection to the granting of the application, but the debtor had absconded and a warrant had been issued for his arrest.

The application was granted.

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS.

Re the Kwong Yu Yee Hop Kee *ex parte* the debtors.

This was a public examination conducted by the Official Receiver.

Sz Ko-wan said he was a partner of the bankrupt firm of 284, Des Vaux Road Central, which carried on business as flour and Californian merchants. His partner was Li Wing-kwong. He could not say how long the business had been in existence, but they took it over some ten years ago, when it cost under \$10,000. Debtor received a deed of transfer, but lent it to one of his foks, and could not say what had become of it. At the end of last year, when they removed to new premises, the foks, thinking the old books were of no use, sold them. To whom he did not know.

His Lordship—How much did they get for them?

Debtor—I don't know.

Continuing, debtor said he was insolvent at the beginning of this Chinese year, when he owed \$100,000. That was not the reason the books were sold. As some of his creditors brought actions against him to recover debts, he thought it better to go into bankruptcy in order that all his creditors might get a dividend. The shop sustained losses in the sale of flour year after year. After filing his petition the whole of his local creditors advised him to withdraw it. They told him he was their good friend. He was unable to say what percentage he could pay if the petition were withdrawn.

The examination was adjourned.

Re Wong Yik *ex parte* the debtor.

Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) represented several creditors.

Wong Yik said he was a travelling trader, his office being at 321 Queen's Road Central. He dealt in indigo dye. He went bankrupt because his partner brought an action against him. Debtor and two others were the owners of 44 houses in Third Street, he being the owner of one-third of the property. There was a first mortgage of \$20,000 on the property. He received and used \$18,000 out of this. There was also a second mortgage for \$35,000 raised in order to pay off the balance due in connection with the security. He estimated that he would only have to pay \$11,000 out of the \$35,000. No arrangement was come to for his release by the mortgagees. There was a third mortgage for \$18,000 on his share of the property, which he gave his partners. He had not received the money, because when he used the \$18,000 on the first mortgage he had to give his partners a promissory note for \$9,000 each. His property was still worth a little, as his partners owed him over \$14,000. Debtor had no property in China; in 1904 he divided it between his sons.

By Mr. Grist—About 20 years ago debtor bought property in Nam Shun village to the extent of \$3,000. Then he erected a house thereon which cost \$4,000. When he became ill the trustees of the ancestral fund advised him to hand the property over to his sons to look after. He signed a deed when he made the property over.

Mr. Grist said he could call evidence to show that the property in Canton belonged to the debtor, and according to the Ordinance

he was obliged to sell it for the benefit of creditors, failing which he could be committed for contempt of court.

His Lordship said he felt satisfied that debtor was the owner of the property, but would like to hear the evidence.

Mr. Grist said he would call it later.

Debtor, continuing, said another lot of property in Canton belonged to his son. He had nothing to do with it.

Mr. Grist—Where did your son get the money to buy it?

Debtor—From his mother.

Mr. Grist—And where did his mother get the money; from you?

Debtor—No; she won it in the Waishing lottery.

Mr. Grist—How much did she win?

Debtor—About \$10,000.

Mr. Grist—Did she have several wins?

Debtor—Yes, she was very lucky.

In reply to further questions debtor said he was not a partner in a number of businesses in the Colony.

The examination was adjourned *sine die* in order that further inquiries might be made regarding debtor's property.

Re Elizabeth Bamsey *ex parte* the debtor.

Mr. E. J. Grist represented the debtor.

Elizabeth Bamsey said she was a widow, and lately carried on a boarding house at No. 56, Caine Road. In June, 1904, she opened a boarding establishment at Morrison Hill. Subscriptions raised for her totalled \$2,030, out of which the house was furnished, leaving her \$300 in cash. She was at Morrison Hill Road for six months, but the business did not pay from the beginning. After leaving Morrison Hill she opened at 56 Caine Road but this business was not payable. She never had more than four boarders at a time, and latterly only two. Her debts totalled \$6,300, the creditor being the Woo Chan, compradores. She owed this firm \$600.

The examination was closed and debtor adjudicated bankrupt.

Re Lanne Chiu-ying *ex parte* the debtor.

Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro represented the debtor.

Debtor said he had owned a fishing junk for three years, but did not take command until last year. Prior to this he had kept a fish shop at Sowkawan for ten years. At first this business was profitable, but later debtors absconded without paying their debts, so he closed the shop and went to sea. His junk cost \$400 and \$800 was spent on repairs. He had a large number of debts due from fishermen, which he made efforts to recover, but was always put off. Yesterday, when the Official Receiver sent him to try again, they promised to pay, and they would pay because the Receiver's notices were effective.

His Lordship closed the examination, and on the application of Mr. Almada adjudicated the debtor bankrupt.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

August 4th.

A CANTON SHOW PLACE CLOSED.

The court at the entrance of the Kwau-Tai Temple now used as a police station is occupied by numerous sidestows, such as panoramas, curious animals, Chinese marionettes, etc.; there are also numerous eating stalls, dentists and fortune tellers. The place is daily crowded by idlers and children. The renting of the ground has hitherto been a source of income for the head monk. Viceroy Shun has decided that these shows are not conducive to order being maintained and has issued instructions to the chief superintendent of police to have the square cleared within ten days.

CHINESE ETIQUETTE.

A military tutor accompanied by several students met a local official and his escort in one of the streets of Canton the day before yesterday. Neither would concede to the other the right of way (which under the circumstances belonged to the official as he was in a chair) and a row ensued, during which the military tutor drawing his sword wounded two or three of the mandarin's escort. The case has been referred to the Viceroy, but H. E. has not yet given his decision.

VICEROY TOOK NO NOTICE.

Yesterday being the anniversary of the death of the boycott martyr Fung Ha-wai, the students of the various Canton colleges made a grand demonstration. They paraded through the principal streets with their trumpet and drum bands and each student carried a wreath of flowers. They embarked in sampans near the Shameen and went over to Ho-nam. It would be perhaps well if the Viceroy prohibited such demonstrations in the future as they are always anti-foreign in character and may cause trouble.

RAILWAY CAPITAL.

A Railway Bank has at last been established and the following directors have been appointed: Lo Po-shun, Hui Wan-to and Wong Pik-shan. The \$4,000,000 collected will be deposited there and the 72 guilds will appoint auditors to audit the account from time to time.

TO ENCOURAGE MARKSMEN.

The Viceroy has offered numerous prizes for target shooting, as well as a threat that all marksmen failing to score at least one "bull's eye" will be dismissed from the army. It takes five bulls out of five shots to win a \$12 robe. I am afraid if the competitions are held often there will not be many men left to win jackets and robes.

August 6th.

Fung Ha-wai, the "Boycott Hero", is still continuing to occupy the minds of the Canton students. Yesterday a ceremony was held at the Hoi-Tong Monastery in his memory and a large crowd assembled there. One of the students created quite a sensation by marching up to the altar where the hero's portrait was exhibited, cutting his queue off and hanging it in front of the portrait as an offering.

FIRE.

At about 3 p.m. yesterday a fire broke out on the Shameen in one of the shops bordering the Shameen Canal. The flames spread very rapidly owing to the inflammability of the materials contained in the shop and two houses were destroyed within twenty minutes.

SUBSIDIARY COINAGE.

The exchange question with regard to the subsidiary coinage minted here is becoming an intolerable nuisance even here, where the money is legal tender. Such institutions as the Chinese Post Office, the Telephone and Telegraph exchanges, should accept them at par. But they don't, and the rate at which they are discounted now reaches seven per cent.

PIRATES.

Three notorious pirates who have been terrorising the Shun-Tak, Heungshan and Canton districts respectively have been arrested in Macao and extradited. Their days are numbered.

A BRIDGE WANTED.

The water police have made new regulation to control the ferry-boat traffic. The boat people are dissatisfied with the new arrangement, however, and a strike is imminent.

August 8th.

THE "SAINAM" PIRACY.

It is reported that one of the leaders of the attack on the *Sainam* was arrested on the 4th inst., in Loong-kong in the Shun-tak district, by the ex-captain Cheung Chiu-yuen.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

The construction of the first section of the truck line of the Canton-Hankow Railway is expected to be commenced very soon. A few miles from Canton are the Si-chuen Shu Yuen-kong hills, and a trench three thousand feet long will have to be cut. The highest point is forty feet above the level of the track. It is estimated that 100,000 cubic yards of earth will have to be taken away. Tenders for the work were invited, and these ranged from \$50,000 to \$13,000 for the job. The contract has been given to Ng Kwok-ching, whose price is \$15,000. I hear now that share capital is to be deposited with Hongkong banks.

EMPEROR'S BIRTHDAY.

On 17th August a banquet will be given at the Manchu Hall in honour of the Emperor of China's birthday. All the Foreign Consuls and foreigners in the employment of the Chinese Government will be invited. It is reported that Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co. have offered to temporarily install two hundred electric lamps free of charge.

HORRIBLE LAWLESSNESS.—A CRUEL EPITAPH.

On the night of the 24th June a medicine shop named Po Yan Tong in Chung Chan Street in Long Kong of the Shun Tak District was looted by robbers. One of the foks named Kwan Yui was taken away for ransom. On the same night in the same street the robbers attacked another shop named Sin Kee, dealing in bamboo rattan and wood wares, and carried away a foki of the shop named Tang Yun. The matter was reported to the authorities, but the robbers have not yet been arrested. On the 4th instant the robbers, seeing that no ransom was forthcoming, strangled Tang Yun to death and left his body in a place called Ti Tau Ki in the neighbourhood of Loong Kong. A thin piece of wood was put up near the body with the following inscription: "This is a foki of the Sin Kee shop in Chung Chan Street in Loong Kong. As nobody has come forward to offer money for his ransom this will act as a warning to future people. Any men seeing this body will make money and be lucky."

VITAL STATISTICS OF HONGKONG.

Following is extracted from the Governor's report for 1905, to the Secretary of State:—

The population of the Colony according to the census taken in 1897 was 248,880, and according to the census of 1901 it was 283,975, exclusive of New Kowloon and the Army and Navy Establishments. The estimated population at the middle of the year under review was 377,850, as follows:—

| | Population. |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Non-Chinese Civil Community | 10,452 |
| Chinese Population | |
| Hongkong | 211,246 |
| Old Kowloon | 73,473 |
| New Kowloon (approximate) | 21,000 |
| Floating population | 54,154 |
| | 359,873 |
| Army (average strength) | 4,274 |
| Navy (average strength) | 3,251 |
| | 7,525 |

Total 377,850

New Kowloon was brought under the jurisdiction of the Sanitary Board in 1904, and its estimated population has accordingly been included. The population of the remainder of the New Territories, according to the census of 1901, was 85,011, making, when added to the present estimate, a grand total of 462,861.

At the census taken in 1901 the actual number of members of the Navy present in the Colony was 5,597, and the estimated average number resident in Hongkong during 1905 is put at 3,251.

MISSIONS TO SEAMEN.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Missions to Seamen begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations:—

| | |
|--|----------|
| His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan, K.C.M.G. | \$150.00 |
| Sir G. H. U. Noel, K.C.B. | 100.00 |
| Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. | 100.00 |
| Messrs. Butterfield & Swire | 100.00 |
| The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank | 100.00 |
| The Union Insurance Society of Canton | 100.00 |
| The P. & O. Steam Navigation Co. | 50.00 |
| Sir C. P. Chater, C.M.G. | 50.00 |
| Messrs. Siemens & Co. | 50.00 |
| Messrs. Dodwell & Co. | 50.00 |
| Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co. | 50.00 |
| The Hamburg Amerika Linie | 50.00 |
| Messrs. Gilman & Co. | 25.00 |
| Messrs. Alexander Ross & Co. | 25.00 |
| Messrs. Lane, Crawford & Co. | 25.00 |
| Messrs. D. Sassoon, Sons & Co. | 25.00 |
| Messrs. Gibb, Livingston & Co. | 25.00 |
| Messrs. Bradley & Co. | 25.00 |
| D. R. Law, Esq. | 25.00 |
| Messrs. Meyer & Co. | 25.00 |

ANOTHER CHINESE CUSTOMS CRISIS

A Tientsin telegram to the *Daily Press*, dated August 7th, said:—

A fresh crisis has occurred in the Imperial Maritime Customs.

Sir Robert Hart passed plans for Customs buildings at Amoy, and the Commissioners rejected them.

UNITED ASBESTOS ORIENTAL AGENCY.

The tenth annual meeting of shareholders in the United Asbestos Oriental Agency, Ltd., was held on Aug. 9. Mr. G. H. Medhurst presided, and there were also present—Messrs. A. Denison, T. Skinner, A. Ritchie, E. G. Barrett, and G. R. Edwards, secretary.

The SECRETARY having read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen,—With your permission I propose taking the report and accounts as read. The profit we have been able to show this year, although slightly less than that of the previous twelve months, we consider satisfactory in view of the keen competition and general depression in trade. I do not think the accounts call for much explanation. The profits on the sales are some \$17,500 more than last year, but the expenses have increased by approximately this amount. The increased expenditure is partially due to the initial cost of opening in Singapore, but we consider the money well spent, as we have good hopes of this branch proving a valuable source of income to the Company in the future. Your general managers have not considered it necessary to write down the value of the launches, as they already stand in the books at a very low figure. They have, however, written off \$652.16 for depreciation of furniture and fittings. The stock as usual has been very carefully taken and checked and due allowance made for depreciation. Before proposing the adoption of report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer any questions to the best of my ability.

There being no questions,

The CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report.

Mr. DENISON seconded. He added—While we are here I might suggest that the general managers might take into consideration the advisability of in some way doing away with the founder's shares. It is better in a company like this to have only one kind of shares.

The CHAIRMAN—That matter will have the consideration of the general managers.

The report was adopted.

On the motion of Mr. RITCHIE, seconded by Mr. SKINNER, Mr. W. H. Potts was re-elected auditor.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business, gentlemen. Thank you for your attendance.

HONGKONG & WHAMPOA DOCK CO., LTD.

The report of the directors of the Hongkong & Whampoa Dock Company, Limited, to the ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders, to be held on Monday, 20th August, at noon, reads:—Gentlemen,—The directors have now to submit to you their report, with a statement of accounts for the half-year ended 30th June, 1906.

The net profit for six months, after paying interest due and all charges, amounts to \$433,256.44 to which has to be added the balance brought forward from last Account 362,232.10

\$765,488.54

and from this have to be deducted—

Directors' Fees \$10,000.00
Auditors' Fees 750.00

10,750.00

leaving available for appropriation .. \$754,738.54

The Directors recommend that a dividend for the half-year of 12%, or \$300,000.00, be paid to the shareholders, that \$31,578.71 be written from the value of Kowloon Docks, \$1,712.45 from the Cosmopolitan Dock, \$24,360.00 from the floating plant, and the balance, \$112,087.38, be carried to the new account.

During the past six months a steamer for the Yangtze River, 9 wooden lighters and 4 large steam-launches have been completed and delivered. The electric drive at the saw mill is not yet completed, owing to the delay in delivering the large twin cable. It has now arrived and is in place; we expect to make a start with this plant about the middle of August.

The 40-ton electric crab referred to in the last report has proved of great service in building the large boilers for the Yangtze river steamer. With the old cranes these boilers could not have been completed in time.

C. P. CHATER.
Chairman.

| CAPITAL ACCOUNT. | | \$ | c. |
|--|--|---------------|----|
| 30th June, 1906. ASSETS. | | | |
| Aberdeen. | | | |
| To value of Aberdeen Docks, as per last statement | | 100,000.00 | |
| Kowloon. | | | |
| To value of Kowloon Docks, as per last statement | | 2,396,934.71 | |
| To amount paid in connection with purchase of H. I. L., 66 | | 2,750.00 | |
| To final payment account new drawing office | | 700.00 | |
| To amount paid on account of new electric installation | | 5,879.00 | |
| To final payment in connection with new accumulator | | 2,635.00 | |
| To final payment in connection with 8-ton locomotive crane | | 2,254.00 | |
| To cost of 12 motors and twin cables for saw mill | | 20,524.00 | |
| To cost of 8 motors, &c., for boiler shop | | 4,502.00 | |
| To cost of new machines for engine shop | | 400.00 | |
| | | 2,426,578.71 | |
| Cosmopolitan. | | | |
| To value of Cosmopolitan Dock, as per last statement | | 301,712.45 | |
| To value of tugs, dredgers, launches and lighters | | 487,203.89 | |
| To sundry debtors | | 429,742.16 | |
| To work in progress | | \$100,520.66 | |
| To value of material on hand | | 1,543,523.22 | |
| | | 1,644,043.88 | |
| | | 85,399,283.09 | |

| 30th June, 1906. LIABILITIES. | | \$ | c. |
|--|--|---------------------|----|
| By shareholders for 50,000 shares of \$50 each fully paid up | | 2,500,000.00 | |
| By Admiralty loan £20,000.0.0 | | | |
| Less re-payments 17,118.2.1 | | | |
| | | £2,881.17.11 at 110 | |
| | | 31,438.87 | |
| By marine insurance account | | 57,500.00 | |
| By sundry creditors | | 2,044,855.68 | |
| By balance of profit brought forward from last account | | 362,232.10 | |
| By profit | | 1,403,256.44 | |
| | | 765,488.54 | |
| | | 85,399,283.09 | |

| REVENUE ACCOUNT. | | \$ | c. |
|--|--|--------------|----|
| 30th June, 1906. | | | |
| To interest | | 62,637.20 | |
| To Crown rent | | 3,119.05 | |
| To fire insurance | | 3,251.83 | |
| To office expenses, salaries, stationery and rent of head office | | 36,603.81 | |
| To telegrams | | 1,400.67 | |
| To legal expenses | | 180.00 | |
| To marine insurance account | | 8,000.00 | |
| To towage | | 134.38 | |
| To dredger | | 6,460.52 | |
| To profit | | 403,256.44 | |
| | | \$525,015.90 | |

| 1st Jan. to 30th June, 1906. | | \$ | c. |
|---|--|--------------|----|
| By net earnings of the Company's three establishments | | 523,912.16 | |
| By bonus on insurance premia, &c. | | 1,133.74 | |
| | | \$525,045.90 | |

OPPORTUNITY TO GET A TELEPHONE CANTON-HONGKONG.

The Canton Daily News says:—

It is stated that the Assistant Director-General of Chinese Telegraphs and Telephones, Taotai Yang Shi-chi, brother of the Governor of Shantung, who went from Shanghai to Tientsin and Peking to inspect there the local telephone system, has been vested with full powers by H. E. Viceroy Yuan to introduce whatever reforms or changes in the telephone systems at Peking and Tientsin he may deem necessary. It is also stated that the Assistant Director-General will visit Canton on a similar errand after his return to Shanghai.

If he arrives here there might be an opportunity to get a telephone communication between Hongkong and Canton, if the Chambers of Commerce of both places take the matter in hand and bring it before Taotai Yang.

CHINA'S FOREIGN TRADE.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, 1905.

The following table may be useful for reference. The figures represent Halkwan Taels, value 3s 0.6d:—

| | (Direct Import from) | (Direct Export to) |
|---|----------------------|--------------------|
| Hongkong | 118,071,198 | 81,452,643 |
| Macao | 2,921,923 | 4,823,693 |
| French Indo-China | 1,653,572 | 2,324,692 |
| Siam | 247,847 | 1,253,790 |
| Singapore, Straits, etc. | 4,061,088 | 3,803,481 |
| Dutch Indies | 4,490,324 | 546,526 |
| British India | 34,798,437 | 2,721,540 |
| Turkey, Persia, Egypt, Aden, Algeria, etc. | 113,707 | 2,031,587 |
| Great Britain | 86,472,343 | 18,064,270 |
| Norway | 69,642 | 140 |
| Sweden | 2,058 | 3,820 |
| Denmark | 47,649 | 23,957 |
| Germany | 14,846,075 | 5,377,649 |
| Netherlands | 1,468,127 | 493,204 |
| Belgium | 9,554,34 | 2,266,636 |
| France | 3,811,634 | 18,872,233 |
| Spain (including Gibraltar) | 478 | 67,813 |
| Portugal | 2,397 | |
| Switzerland | 27,975 | 249,176 |
| Italy | 424,794 | 8,170,304 |
| Austria and Hungary | 1,343,511 | 483,111 |
| Russia, European Ports | 1,945,066 | 3,555,978 |
| Russia and Siberia by land frontier | | 2,923,478 |
| Russia, Pacific Ports | 71,946 | 2,952,661 |
| Korea | 1,753,701 | 2,185,927 |
| Japan (including Formosa) | 61,315,248 | 35,464,963 |
| Philippine Islands | 825,692 | 141,285 |
| Canada | 2,387,658 | 406,391 |
| United States of America (including Hawaii) | 76,916,838 | 27,030,772 |
| Mexico and Central America (including Panama) | | 47,168 |
| South America | | 13,084 |
| Australia, New Zealand, etc. | 1,538,747 | 71,928 |
| South Africa (including Mauritius) | 13,523 | 55,252 |
| Total | 461,194,532 | 227,882,197 |

NOTES FROM THE NORTH.

(FROM OUR TIENTSIN CORRESPONDENT.)

July 25th.

THE TRAVELLING COMMISSIONERS.

I suppose the great event of the past week has been the return—the safe return—of the Imperial High Commissioners from their foreign tour. The most extraordinary precautions were taken at Shanghai, Tientsin, and Peking to prevent any repetition of the bomb outrage which deferred the departure of the Commissioners on their outward journey. It is satisfactory that they were entirely successful. I have excellent authority for saying that the Peking authorities received specific warning that an attempt would be made on the lives of the Commissioners.

As to the Commissioners' reports, no details will be allowed to transpire till they have been laid before the Throne. The Emperor and Empress-Dowager are at present away from Peking, and both have been sick. Their Majesties have postponed much formal business till their return to the capital, but the Empress-Dowager takes so keen an interest in the scheme for a reformed administration that an exception will be made in the case of the Commissioners.

HUNGHTZES.

The operations of the Hunghtzes in Manchuria are causing considerable anxiety to the Peking Government. Like your West River pirates, these bandits operate in plain clothes, and are in no way distinguishable from the ordinary peasant. When the troops, of whom several thousands have been despatched, go out to look for Hunghtzes, therefore, they are completely bamboozled, and make little or no headway with their task.

CHINA'S OFFICERLESS ARMY.

The greatest defect of the new army raised by H. E. Yuan Shih-kai is its lack of competent and practical officers. The rank and file are excellent material if they were in the hands of good directors, but as it takes at least ten years to make an efficient officer the making of a modern army cannot be effected so speedily as the Chinese authorities desire. The proposal has been made, and I understand it is likely to be favourably considered, that 5,000 foreign officers should be engaged for that portion of the Imperial army of the North (Yuan Shih-kai's) which is now operating against the Hunghtzes in Manchuria. These, it is suggested, would take supreme command, having Chinese officers in subordinate positions in which they might learn the lessons of practical warfare and be promoted according to the merit displayed. The suggestion is that these foreign officers should not be drawn from the armies of any of the great Powers, for political reasons, but should be taken from the armies of the Scandinavian kingdoms.

REVIEW.

Federal and Modern Japan, by ARTHUR MAY KNAPP. Yokohama: The Advertiser Publishing Co. Also Kelly & Walsh, Ltd. 1906.

This is a reprint of a book formerly published in two volumes; and it bears evidence of revision to date. Its two-part predecessor was read by the present reviewer with very great pleasure, during a voyage to the country and the people with which it deals. This probably accounts for the diminished enjoyment with which its re-perusal was accomplished. The author has had exceptional facilities for becoming acquainted with his subject, and brought to the work Bostonian culture, American wit, and a shrewd, sane, comparative outlook that saves him from the faults common to so many writers on Japan, whether they be sympathetic or otherwise. An interesting addition to the work is a short—too short—bibliography, in which we note Mr. Knapp says of the late Lafcadio Hearn (whose work he justly admires) that "the chief fault in his works arises from over-subtlety and a morbid shrinking from all that is obvious." That is subtle criticism, and perhaps a little misleading, as it was that subtlety which added so much charm to Hearn's books. The latter clause stands, however, and we mention it in order to suggest that the chief blemishes in Mr. Knapp's book arise perhaps from a lack of courage to leave unsaid some of the many things that all writers on Japan are expected to say. In the new preface, for instance, where he writes, "we have been marvelling at the virile qualities displayed by a people who for centuries have dwelt in profound peace", we feel reasonably certain that the author speaks not of himself but of the uninformed public whom he should instruct. For it does not require his lengthy acquaintance with the Japanese to throw overboard the usual "bijou, petty, diminutive, and finicking" ideas absorbed from the average traveller's cackle, and to recognise the essential virility of the race. Also, the expression about centuries of profound peace seems to have been somewhat carelessly employed. Virility is not necessarily an outcome of foreign wars with scientific weapons of precision. The cretures of Mr. H. G. Wells' imagined posterity (or were they Martians?), invertebrate intelligences who fight and slay thousands with some sort of noxious vapour-producing instruments, could never be called virile, and they are but a logical step or two beyond the man behind the long-range gun. The Japanese of the future will possibly travel to war in armoured airships, and shoot their enemies before they see them, ascertaining their whereabouts by wireless telegraphy, and getting the range by map; but though they may then out-Yalu Yalu in the way of scientific wholesale murder, they will not be more virile. The Japanese who were trained to arms for feudal wars, family fights, and Samurai duels, were in a better way to become virile than if they had had centuries of practice destroying steel-clad navies.

The author presents many original reflections in treating of "the cruse of nations", and one is that it is perhaps the only civilized people who can lay claim to the distinction of being

practically an unmixed race. He does not ignore the admitted admixtures of almost prehistoric times, but points out that having played the part of a hermit nation there was time for these to be thoroughly assimilated. This provides pride of race as well as love of country, he points out. He might have added, but does not, that Japan's greatness (in Western eyes) has been achieved in spite of, rather than because of, this homogeneity. The Manchu race has striven after the same ideal, with what results we know; and the few other "pure" races have little else to brag about. The virility of which we have been talking seems to accompany healthy crossings. It is worth noting that the author (himself an ex-missionary) does not believe in the hope of any genuine conversion of the Japanese as a people to any religion but patriotism; and in this connection we are tempted to quote (from another excellent chapter) some of the writings of the Japanese Gulliver. The delightful argument of the Japanese Brobdignagians to Wasanbiyauwe is, however, too long, and must be left to be enjoyed by those who are wise enough to possess themselves of the book itself. So also must we leave the happy analogy (the author is clever at analogy) by which in conclusion the alliance of East and West is supported. "Feudal and Modern Japan" deserves an honourable place in the long list of foreign books on Japan.

HOME AND CHINA AFFAIRS.

The London correspondent of the *Daily Press* wrote, *inter alia*:-

SIR J. MCLEAVY BROWN.

Was it intelligent anticipation that induced Mr. T. P. O'Connor to select Sir J. McLeavy Brown as the subject of his article "The Power Behind the Throne" in the new and readable weekly "P.T.O." the Saturday before the birthday honours were announced? Or was it merely only one of those strange coincidences in journalism that go so far to build up individual reputations for being in the know? Whatever the explanation, the coincidence was remarkable, and this opportune publication prevented the question in this instance of "Who is he?" The sub-title of the article was "The Sphinx of Seoul," and those who know McLeavy Brown know how apt is the application. Unfortunately, the article contained nothing that was original. It was taken from Mr. Allan Hamilton's book on Korea, published by Heinemann in 1904, and anyone who has not the pleasure of the personal acquaintance of the new knight should turn to the seventh chapter of that interesting book for edification and instruction. This will obviate any quotation from it now, though I feel strongly tempted to reproduce a portion of it. In Sir John's case, the honour is well deserved. One might safely say the same thing of most of the honours bestowed upon British subjects in the Far East. It is about time that Mr. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, the Commissioner of Weihaiwei was rewarded for his excellent work.

THE LATE MAJOR MCCARTHY R. E. RAY.

The news of the death of Major McCarthy R. E. Ray, of the Indian Army, must have come as a shock to his numerous friends in China, for I doubt if there was an officer of the Indian Army better known or more highly respected from Hongkong to Peking than this promising young soldier. One of the band of brilliant young men gathered round him by Major-General E. G. Barrow, when he undertook the organisation of the Hongkong Regiment, Lieutenant Ray, as he was then, exhibited all the devotion to his profession which marked him out for special employment whenever opportunity offered. He was an energetic adjutant, and when he returned to India to his regiment, the 7th Rajputs, he was noted for the excellence of his work. He took part in the expedition for the relief of the Foreign Legations at Peking, and, as A.D.Q.M.G., was Intelligence Officer on the Staff of General J. R. L. Macdonald, who escorted the Tibet Mission to Lhasa, when he was specially mentioned in despatches. During the expedition into Tibet, Major Ray met with an accident, injuring his arm severely by a fall while carrying out some investigations on the Bhutanese frontier. He was by no means physically robust, and his restless energy must have been too much for his constitution.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CHINA SUGAR REFINING CO.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 6th August.

SIR,—From the correspondence published with reference to the net profit that has been reported to have been earned by this Company for the past half-year and the amount taken from the Special Reserve Fund of \$850,000 in reducing the cost of raw sugar, I submit the General Managers should, after the private meeting to be held on Wednesday next with the Members of the Sub-Committee for declaring the half-yearly interim dividend, inform the Shareholders through the medium of the press of the actual amount of net profit earned for that period and the amount taken from the Special Reserve Fund, in order that the actual state of affairs might be known to the shareholders generally, as a great many of them have no means of obtaining reliable information. If, as it has been reported that over \$400,000 has been made and that the balance in the Special Reserve Fund now stands at over \$500,000, and that these two sums together with the Reserve for Equalization of Dividend stand at a figure over \$1,000,000, I submit that it is the bounden duty of the General Agents and the Sub-Committee, on the principle of the greatest good for the greatest number, to declare at the least the same interim dividend as was given last year, viz. \$10, as pleaded for by other shareholders; in view of the fact that taking everything into consideration the position of the Company is now much sounder financially and the prospects brighter than last year.—Yours faithfully,

"ONE WHO HOLDS A FEW
HUNDRED SHARES."

NO DRAGON, BUT A TOAD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—It is not a dragon which eats the moon at eclipse time, but a toad. Most foreign students of Chinese folklore know that the popular term is "kam pa shek yit", the toad eating the moon. The dragon symbolises the emperor and the phoenix the empress, and as their imperial majesties are also called the children of the sun and moon, to talk of the dragon eating the moon is manifestly improper.—Yours, etc.,

VALENTE.

REFORM IN SHANGHAI TEAHOUSES.

The following from the *N.-C. Daily News* serves to elaborate our recent telegram about the affair:—Some little excitement occurred in Foochow Road and vicinity in the native singing-girls' houses on July 30th owing to an attempt on the part of the Municipal Police to enforce strictly certain new regulations made by the Mixed Court, with the sanction of the Municipal Council, prohibiting girls under the age of sixteen (Chinese reckoning) from living in these singing-girl houses. Quite a number of young girls within the prohibited limit of age were taken charge of on Monday evening as they were proceeding through the streets and were conveyed to the Door of Hope Refuge. Rowdies taking advantage of the excitement caused by the arrests tried to force the proprietors of the houses in question to go on strike by a general closing of their doors. This was done in the majority of instances, but several of the more daring opened their doors as usual, while some of the inmates went out in their sedan chairs to sing at the restaurants and other places of public resort. This was the signal for the rowdies to stone the houses which opened and the occupants of the sedan chairs the moment they appeared on the streets. Several girls as well as their chair-bearers were injured by the rowdies in this way, and the result was that all the singing-girls' houses were closed for an hour or so, when the police came and asked the proprietors to resume business, promising protection. This was done,

and on July 31st the houses were open as usual in the Foochow Road quarter. There was a meeting held the same afternoon at the Chinese Commercial Association to consider the question of preventing a threatened riot, but as everything had turned out satisfactorily no action was considered necessary.

Writing on the recent closing of the singing-girls' houses in Foochow Road and vicinity the *Sinwén-pao* in a leading article states that Chinese have an erroneous idea obtained from ancient history that the commercial prosperity of a city depends upon such establishments as singing-girls' houses and kindred places of entertainment, inasmuch as they allure the trader to bring his business to the city or town offering the greatest number of such institutions. This idea is based upon a historical incident over twenty centuries old, which happened when China was divided into twelve principal independent states in the Kingdom or Principality of Ts'i (the modern province of Shantung). In the time of Prince Huan of Ts'i there lived a far-seeing and shrewd Minister named Kuan Ch'ung, who was the first to inaugurate the idea of state-owned singing-girls' houses for the purpose of attracting traders from other states to buy and sell wares in the principal cities of Ts'i. The scheme of the Minister was attended with some success and this historical instance has so imbedded itself in the minds of the ordinary Chinese student that it has become an axiom, as it were, in the Chinese mind, that the commercial prosperity of a town is dependent on singing-girl houses.

The Editor of the *Sinwén-pao* however, asks his readers to think of the prosperity of London, the greatest commercial city in the world. London possesses no such institutions as those of Shanghai which publicly ply their vocation, hence it is evident that it is not institutions like Chinese singing-girls' houses that brought all this great commercial prosperity to London. The old Chinese theory is therefore exploded by the prominent example afforded by the capital city of Great Britain. Indeed a city would be the better and the purer by doing away with such questionable houses of entertainment.

It may be contended that landlords who rent the vast number of houses in Foochow, Fukien, Hupeh and other roads may suffer by the closing of these houses, as high rent is obtained for them. Nanking Road houses fetch very much higher rents; yet there are no singing-girls' houses on it. Landlords therefore need not fear losing their rents by the abolition of these institutions. There are thirteen Chinese gentlemen of high and respectable standing who are members of the Committee of the Door of Hope Refuge and the knowledge they possess of the misery to which many of the inmates of these houses are subjected impel them to seek for every means by which such institutions can be abolished from this Model Settlement. If they cannot be abolished, then a proper system of surveillance should be made, and visits of inspection not be made, as they are now, only when a complainant reaches the Door of Hope Refuge, but take place at the discretion of the Refuge.

AMERICAN PRISONERS IN SHANGHAI.

American prisoners seem to be well treated at the Shanghai Consulate. They go out for walks, presumably unattended, and are given tansan when they call for it. One U. S. Buttrick, doing three years for embezzlement at Tientsin, has been lost. The *N.-C. Daily News* explains the circumstances, and adds:—

Another version, for the truth of which we cannot vouch, is that when Buttrick returned from his evening walk he was unable to get into the Consulate. He knocked and rang for some time without any response, and finally, in high dudgeon at the inhospitality of the Consulate went elsewhere for his night's lodging. Our informant adds that he would not be surprised if Buttrick turned up to-day to lodge a complaint against the American authorities for locking him out in this inhuman manner.

The editor of *L'Echo de Pékin* has been committed to prison for ten days by the French Legation for defamation at the suit of a Chinese member of the Shansi Railway Co.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

HANKOW, 1st August, 1906.—Business reported since the 25th ult. is as under:—

| | 1906. | 1905. |
|---|--------|--------|
| Settlements ... | 15,034 | 15,042 |
| Shipments to Shanghai on Native account ... | 8,301 | 6,262 |

The following are statistics at date compared with the corresponding circular of last season, viz., 2nd August, 1905.

| | 1906. | 1905. |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| HANKOW TEA. 1-Chests. | 1-Chests. | 1-Chests. |
| Settlements ... | 384,155 | 421,439 |
| Shipments to Shanghai on Native account ... | 6,421 | 3,607 |
| Stock ... | 52,489 | 31,890 |
| Arrivals ... | 413,065 | 456,436 |

| | 1906. | 1905. |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| KIUKIANG TEA. 1-Chests. | 1-Chests. | 1-Chests. |
| Settlements ... | 158,018 | 175,825 |
| Shipments to Shanghai on Native account ... | 1,880 | 2,655 |
| Stock ... | 10,072 | 7,106 |
| Arrivals ... | 169,970 | 185,586 |

SILK.

CANTON, 14th July, 1906.—The number of bales available for export will be between 6,000 and 7,000 against 7,000 in 1904, and 6,000 in 1905. The silk is of a fair quality, but a little hairy, colour better than 2nd crop. Market.—After a temporary weakness prices for Raw silk have stiffened again owing to the rise in Cocoons. At the same time there was a revival of demand from Europe, and a comparatively good business ensued. The Waste market has been quiet, but at the close a strong undertone prevails throughout the country, on account of some holders covering short sales. Stock of silk in Canton 800 bales.

RICE.

Messrs. Wm. G. Hale & Co.'s Circular, dated Saigon 27th July, 1906, states:—Our market has fluctuated by a few cents during the period under review, but, on the whole, remains firm. About 10,000 tons have been sold this week to Europe. We quote for August to September delivery:

| | |
|---|------------|
| No. 2 White sifted (trié) steam milled (round) ... | per picul. |
| No. 2 White unsifted (ordinaire) steam milled (round) ... | \$3.44 |
| 5 % Cargo steam milled (round) ... | \$3.09 |
| 10 % Cargo steam milled (round) ... | \$2.99 |
| 20 % Cargo steam milled (round) ... | \$2.89 |

* Prices according to terms and conditions.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, August 9th.

Quotations are:—Allowance net to 1 catty.

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------|----|------------|
| Malwa New | \$950 | to | per picul. |
| Malwa Old | \$1000 | to | do. |
| Malwa Older | \$1050 | to | do. |
| Malwa Very Old | \$1120 | to | do. |
| Persian Fine Quality | \$700 | to | do. |
| Persian Extra Fine | \$770 | to | do. |
| Patna New | \$977 | to | per chest. |
| Patna Old | \$975 | to | do. |
| Benares New | \$925 | to | do. |
| Benares Old | \$910 | to | do. |

COAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their Coal Report of 9th August, state that 14 steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 62,900 tons of coal. Since July 26th, 12 steamers have arrived with a total of 46,796 tons of coal. The Report also states that the market for all kinds has been very dull, and little business is reported.

Quotations:—

| | | |
|-----------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| Cardiff | \$15.00 | ex-ship, nominal. |
| Australian | \$9.50 | to \$9.75 ex-ship, quiet. |
| Yubari Lump | \$12.00 | nominal. |
| Milki Lump | \$12.00 | nominal. |
| Moji Lump | \$7.25 | to \$10.00 ex-ship, steady. |
| Moji unscreened | \$7.00 | to \$7.50 ex-ship, steady. |
| Akaike Lump | \$9.00 | to \$9.50 steady. |
| Bengal | \$9.00 | to \$9.75 nominal. |

RAW COTTON.

HONGKONG, 10th August.—Fair business at last prices. Stock about 900 bales.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|------------|------------|
| Bombay | \$18.00 | to \$20.00 | per picul. |
| Bengal (New), Rangoon and Dacca | 21.00 | to 23.50 | " |
| Shanghai and Japanese | 26.00 | to 27.00 | " |
| Tungchow and Ningpo | 26.00 | to 27.00 | " |

Reported sales, 400 bags.

YARN.

Mr. P. Edujee, in his report dated Hongkong, 11th August, 1906, says:—The demand mentioned in last report has been experienced throughout the past fortnight, but has been characterized by extreme caution on the part of dealers, as the expected inquiry from the country had not reached the proportions anticipated. Considering the disorganized condition of our local market, sales reported are fairly large, the chief feature being the increasing enquiry for No. 16s, which have been long neglected. Prices generally are easier, but at the same time, while holders are meeting any demand that exists, there is no real pressure to sell. The market closes quiet, but steady.

The panic amongst dealers has not yet abated. On the contrary another cotton and cotton yarn buyer has succumbed during the interval, with liabilities estimated at about \$150,000, and about 7,000 bales of yarn (mostly Indian) have thus been thrown back upon the market. This is the third failure during a period of two months, and a fourth is now openly talked about, and will in all probability shortly follow suit. The large Opium and Cotton Yarn Hong alluded to in last report is not yet out of the wood, so that the final crash is not averted, but somewhat delayed.

Sales during the interval aggregate 5,252 bales, arrivals amount to 11,213 bales, stocks estimated at 75,000, and sold but uncleared goods at 70,000 bales.

Local Manufacture:—Quotations are maintained, but there is very little doing, some 150 bales only of No. 10s having changed hands at \$95 to \$96.

Japanese Yarn:—Is in comparatively better request, and sales of 100 bales Three Horses No. 16s at \$124, and of 150 bales Red Peacock at \$138 are reported.

Raw Cotton:—Holders of Indian staple have been anxious sellers, and a concession of \$1 per picul had to be granted to induce business. Sales reported are 220 bales Superfine Bengals at \$21 to \$22, and 160 bales Thoongchow at \$24. Unsold stocks are 2,500 bales Indian, and 300 bales Chinese. Quotations are \$19 to \$22 Indian, and \$22 to \$24 Shanghai.

Exchange on India has fluctuated slightly and closes to-day at Rs. 158 for T/T and Rs. 158 for Post. On Shanghai 72, and on Japan 103.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 4th instant, viz:—

Indian:—Market unsteady, and prices weak. Total sales about 4,000 bales with an estimated stock of 105,000 bales.

Japanese:—No. 16s are slightly easier, but for No. 20s higher prices had to be paid. Total sales 2,500 bales on the basis of Tls. 88 to 90 for No. 16s, and Tls. 103 to 104 for No. 20s.

Local:—Somewhat easier, but still no fresh business to report.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai 2nd August, 1906, states:—There is very little of an interesting nature to write about, our market having relapsed into a state bordering on stagnation again. Hopes have been dashed to the ground, and prospects are just as gloomy as ever. It was thought that when the very reasonably priced goods which were shipped from here during the last two months reached their destinations that the demand would be stimulated and fresh orders be forthcoming. Not so, however, as they have apparently only gone to already glutted markets, and no repeat orders have been received. Even the small demand there was recently for four yard American Sheerings has been satiated, and since the publication of the stocks nothing seems to have struck the dealers as safe to touch with the exception of Fast Black Cotton Italians, and for these a fair number of indents have gone through for December/February shipment. There have, however, been a good many disappointments, as is usual with the fancy goods business; where prices have suited, the delivery has not, and vice versa. Regular Importers are complaining bitterly of the havoc that has been made of some branches of their trade by the indiscriminate way in which small dealers here have been induced to place orders for goods, the capacity of the market for which they know nothing about, by special representatives of Manchester houses, and which is bound to lead to a good many burnt fingers. The paralysed state of the White Shirting market is largely due to this and also certain lines of Dyed fabrics. The fears of floods and scarcity of rice are just as serious as ever and are undoubtedly accountable for the stagnation in the demand for the River markets and Szechuen. The weather is once more to be blamed for the pooriness of deliveries, the heavy rain during the last two days stopping clearances

entirely. Manchester is still showing signs of wanting fresh orders, but in face of the enormous stocks here the dealers are not inclined to operate, any more than Importers are to encourage them to do so. The favourable reports of the American Cotton Crop is beginning to tell on prices, the latest Liverpool quotation for Mid-American being 5.99d., but Egyptian has advanced to 10.7d. The export figures for July have not yet come in. There is no news of the New York market, and no fresh buying has been indulged in. The rotten state of trade in Newchwang has been further demonstrated this week by the failure of another very prominent native firm with liabilities amounting to upwards of eight lakhs of taels. Although, we understand, not directly, or at all events exclusively interested in Piece Goods or Yarn, the misfortune is expected to affect the trade as a whole by impairing the credit of the place. Nankeens (Native Cloth) were shipped from here to extent of 190,000 piculs, which is the equivalent of 2,527,000 pieces each 10-lbs. and of an average value of Tls. 3.75 per piece. Taking that quantity 50,540 bales of Cotton, and that which would probably not come under the cognizance of the Imperial Maritime Customs in its raw state, and add it to what actually does, it gives approximately a supply of 325,000 bales of 500 lbs. each per annum. Meanwhile the impasse in Manchuria remains unabated, and in spite of the reiterated protests of the Japanese press that everything is being done to open the Country to foreign trade, the natives are obstructed all the time in various but very effective ways in their attempts to carry on a legitimate trade, even at the centres already declared to be open and free from Japanese influence.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 10th August.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN—Market has ruled quiet for the greater part of the period, and small sales have been effected at a reduction of about 1/4 per bale. Quotations are:—No. 10s. at \$85 to \$112; No. 10s. at \$108 to \$132 and No. 20s. at \$114 to \$142. Arrivals 15,000 bales; Shipments 4,000 bales; Sales 5,000 bales; Bargains 88,000 bales. Unsold stock, 64,000 bales.

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ... | per bale |
| English—Nos. 16 to 24, ... | \$90.00 to \$128.00 |
| " 22 to 24, ... | 140.00 to 160.00 |
| " 28 to 32, ... | 160.00 to 165.00 |
| " 38 to 42, ... | 167.50 to 175.00 |
| Reported sales 5,000 bales. | |

COTTON PIECE GOODS—Small sales. Market quiet.

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Grey Shirtings—7lbs. | per piece |
| 8.4 lbs. | \$2.55 |
| 9 to 10 lbs. | 3.35 to 4.10 |
| White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. | 2.92 to 3.00 |
| 58 to 60 " | 2.92 to 3.00 |
| 64 to 66 " | 2.92 to 3.00 |
| Fine 2.92 to 3.00 | |
| Book-folds 2.92 to 3.00 | |
| Victoria Lawns—12 yards ... | 1.65 to 1.80 |
| T-Cloths—6lbs. 32 in. " Ord'y. | 2.25 to 2.90 |
| 7lbs. 32 " " " | 2.25 to 2.90 |
| 6lbs. 32 " " Mexs. | 2.25 to 2.90 |
| 7lbs. 32 " " " | 2.25 to 2.90 |
| 8 to 8.4 oz., 36 in. | 3.10 to 3.95 |
| Drills, English—40 yds., 18 1/4 " | 4.50 to 5.50 |

FANCY COTTON—Small sales. Market quiet.

Turkey Red Shirtings—1 1/4 to 8 lbs. } \$1.75 to \$4.50

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Brocades—Dyed | per yard |
| Chintzes—Assorted | \$0.12 to \$0.15 |
| Velvets—Black, 22 in., | 0.07 to 0.30 |
| Velveteens—18 in., | 0.23 to 0.45 |
| | per doz. |

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk ... 0.60 to 1.50

WOOLLENS—Market sick Small sales.

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops | per piece |
| Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-9 lbs. | \$0.65 to ... |
| Assorted | 7.75 to \$9.35 |
| | 7.90 to 9.50 |

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer Bayern, sailed on 1st August. For Genoa:—218 cases cassia, 209 bales raw silk, 1 bale waste silk, 1 case curios, 1 case fans. For Antwerp:—245 bales leaf tobacco, 20 cases camphorwood trunks, 17 cases chinaware, 2 cases blackwoodware, 1 case bamboo fans. For Bremen:—266 rolls matting. For Hamburg:—107 bales canes, 21 cases bristles, 10 cases blackwoodware, 10 cases paper, 4 cases leathers. For Copenhagen:—1 case chinaware.

Per M. M. steamer *Armand Behic*, sailed on 7th August. For Marseilles:—568 bales raw silk, 4 cases silk piece goods, 45 packages human hair, 141 packages tea, 1 case opium, 18 cases ylang ylang oil, 2 cases hats. For Lyons:—400 bales raw silk.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 10th August, 1906.—The interposition of the August Bank Holiday on Monday somewhat interfered with the flow of business, and our market during the period under review has ruled a little quieter. The feature of the week has been a short-lived activity in China Sugars, which, in anticipation of an interim dividend, improved considerably, only however to return to their former more or less neglected position on it becoming known that the general managers and the consulting committee did not favour the payment of a dividend. The market generally closes steady to firm, but with little activity. Exchange on London closes at 2/1½ T. T. and on Shanghai at 72½ T. T. Bar Silver is quoted at 30½.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been placed in small lots at \$850, and close steady at that rate. Nationals are quiet, but unchanged at \$47.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions are still enquired for at \$800, but no shares appear to be available under \$810, and consequently there is no business to report. North Chinas and Yangtzes are wanted in the North at somewhat less than current quotations, but holders do not at present appear disposed to meet the market. Cantons are procurable to a small extent at \$335, but we have heard of no sales during the interval.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong continue in request at \$320, and Chinas at \$91, after a small sale reported at \$90½.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao still attract the attention of investors, and shares can be placed at \$27½. Indo-Chinas are also somewhat firmer, and after sales at \$70 are still in demand for the North at that figure. China and Manilas are firm with sales and further buyers at \$21. Douglasses and Star Ferries are quiet and unchanged at quotations. Shell Transports, in spite of a reported advance in London, are still procurable here at 27/6, market closing somewhat weak with no business to report.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars, after advancing to \$162½, have fallen away to \$152½, at which a small sale is reported to have been effected, market closing quiet at that figure, but with probable sellers. As a result of the six months' working, we understand it has been found necessary, in order to close that period without actual loss, to appropriate the sum of \$70,000 from the special reserve fund of \$850,000 brought forward from last account to meet such a contingency. Luzons are still in request at \$20, but without business.

MINING.—Raubs have further improved their position, and sales have been effected at varying rates up to \$7, at which, however, a few more shares are available.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks are unchanged and without business. Kowloon Wharves continue quiet at \$106. New Amoy Docks are still quoted at \$18, but a lower rate would probably result in business. Shanghai Docks have improved to Tls. 98, at which rate there are buyers both locally and in Shanghai.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands are easier with small sellers at \$110. Humphrey's Estates have again been booked at \$11½, at which the market closes steady. West Points, Kowloon Lands, and Shanghai Lands are unchanged and without local business.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have further advanced in the North to Tls. 78, Internationals to Tls. 66, and Laon Kung Mows to Tls. 80. Hongkong Cottons are also firmer, and after sales at \$14, \$14½ and \$14½ are in further request at the latter rate.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Providents have been booked at \$910 and continue in demand. Dairy Farms have again been placed at \$17 and are still wanted. China Borneos have still further improved their position and are now in request at \$10. Fenwicks have been booked at \$22, but more shares are procurable at that rate. Watsons have sold at \$13 and have further

buyers. China Light and Powers are still in request at \$10, but no shares now appear available at that rate. Green Island Cements are unchanged with sales and further sellers at \$23.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

| COMPANY. | PAID UP. | QUOTATIONS. |
|---------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------|
| Alhambra | \$200 | \$100 |
| Banks— | | |
| Hongkong & Shanghai | \$125 | \$850, sales; London, £92 |
| National B. of China A. Shares | £6 | \$47 |
| Bell's Asbestos E. A. | 12s. 6d. | \$7 |
| China-Borneo Co. | \$12 | \$10, buyers |
| China Light & P. Co. | \$10 | \$10, sales & buy. |
| China Provident | \$10 | \$9, buyers |
| Cotton Mills— | | |
| Ewo | Tls. 50 | Tls. 78 |
| Hongkong | \$10 | \$14½, buyers |
| International | Tls. 75 | Tls. 66 |
| Laon Kung Mow | Tls. 100 | Tls. 80 |
| Soychee | Tls. 500 | Tls. 300 |
| Dairy Farm | \$6 | \$17, sales & buy. |
| Docks & Wharves— | | |
| H. & K. Wharf & G. | \$50 | \$100 |
| H. & W. Dock | \$50 | \$153, sellers |
| New Amoy Dock | \$61 | \$18, sellers |
| Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd. | Tls. 100 | Tls. 98, buyers |
| Shanghai & H. Wharf | Tls. 100 | Tls. 235 |
| Fenwick & Co., Geo. | \$25 | \$22, sales & sel. |
| G. Island Cement | \$10 | \$23, sales & sel. |
| Hongkong & C. Gas | £10 | \$175, buyers |
| Hongkong Electric | \$10 | \$16, sellers |
| H. H. L. Tramways | \$100 | \$235, buyers |
| Hongkong Hotel Co. | \$50 | \$125, sellers |
| Hongkong Ice Co. | \$25 | \$238 |
| Hongkong Rope Co. | \$10 | \$29, sellers |
| H'kong S. Waterboat | \$10 | \$8, sellers |
| Insurances— | | |
| Canton | \$50 | \$335, sellers |
| China Fire | \$20 | \$91, buyers |
| China Traders | \$25 | \$100, sellers |
| Hongkong Fire | \$50 | \$320, buyers |
| North China | £5 | Tls. 85 |
| Union | \$100 | \$900, buyers |
| Yangtze | \$60 | \$172½ |
| Land and Buildings— | | |
| H'kong Land Invest. | \$100 | \$110, sellers |
| Humphreys' Estate | \$10 | \$11½ |
| Kowloon Land & B. | \$30 | \$38 |
| Shanghai Land | Tls. 50 | Tls. 110 |
| West Point Building | \$50 | \$50, sellers |
| Mining— | | |
| Charbonnages | Fos. 250 | \$450, nominal |
| Raubs | 18/10 | \$7 |
| Philippine Co. | \$10 | \$5 |
| Refineries— | | |
| China Sugar | \$100 | \$152½ |
| Luzon Sugar | \$100 | \$21, buyers |
| Steamship Companies— | | |
| China and Manila | \$25 | \$21, buyers |
| Douglas Steamship | \$50 | \$47 |
| H., Canton & M. | \$15 | \$27½, buyers |
| Indo-China S.N. Co. | £10 | \$70, buyers |
| Shell Transport Co. | £1 | 27/6, sellers |
| Star Ferry | \$10 | \$29, sellers |
| Do. New | \$5 | \$20, sellers |
| Shanghai & H. Dyeing | \$50 | \$50, sales |
| South China M. Post. | \$25 | \$18, buyers |
| Steam Laundry Co. | \$5 | \$6 |
| Stores & Dispensaries— | | |
| Campbell, M. & Co. | \$10 | \$32 |
| Powell & Co., Wm. | \$10 | \$10½ |
| Watkins | \$10 | \$4½, sellers |
| Watson & Co., A. S. | \$10 | \$13, buyers |
| United Asbestos | \$4 | \$8, x. d. |
| Do. Founders | \$10 | \$150, x. d. |

VERNON & SMYTH Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending the 2nd August, 1906, states:—The settlement has interfered with business considerably during the last week, and the only special feature to report is a heavy fall in China Flour Mill Shares to Tls. 60. All the other stocks have remained fairly steady. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. No business reported locally. Hongkong quotes \$850, buyers, and the latest London quotation is £91. 15s. The T/T on London to-day is 2/10½. Marine and Fire Insurance.—No business reported. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas have again changed hands at Tls. 51 for July, and there is a moderate enquiry at this rate. Shanghai Tug and Lighter Co. A good business has been done in ordinary tugs at Tls. 60 ex. div., and preference shares have changed hands at Tls. 51½. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd. After the short sellers had supplied their requirements, quotations fell a little, but the market is very steady. Business is reported at Tls. 95, 91, and 90 July. Shanghai and Hongkong Wharves. This market has been steady and business is reported at Tls. 230 July, and Tls. 235, 233½ and 234 September. Sugar.—No business reported. Mining.—No business reported. Lands.—Anglo-French Land Co. A single operation is reported at Tls. 110. Industrial.—Cotton Mills are still in demand. Business is reported in Ewos at Tls. 77 and 78 September, and in Internationals at Tls. 64 cash. Shanghai Ice C. S. & R. Co. Shares at Tls. 26. Maatschappij, &c., in Langkats. Business has been reported at Tls. 225 and 223½ July, Tls. 225 August; Tls. 229 and 227½ Sept. and Tls. 232½ and 230 October. Miscellaneous.—Telephones have been dealt in at Tls. 60. Stores and Hotels.—Astor House Hotel Shares are quoted at \$32½ and 33. Loans and Debentures.—Shanghai Land. 5½ per cent. debentures are quoted at Tls. 98, and a fair business has been done in Chinese Imperial Government E Loans at par. Shanghai and Hongkong Wharves 6 per cent. debentures have been placed at Tls. 96.

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 8th August, 1906.

| | | |
|----------------------|-------|----------|
| Apricot | \$24 | to — |
| Borax | \$21 | " — |
| Cassia | \$13 | " \$18 |
| Cloves | \$20 | " \$34 |
| Camphor | \$175 | " — |
| Cow Bezoar | \$125 | " — |
| Fennel Seed | \$8 | " — |
| Galangal | \$3 | " \$5 |
| Grapes | \$12 | " \$14 |
| Kismis | \$13 | " \$15 |
| Glue | \$24 | " — |
| Olibanum | \$4 | " \$13 |
| Oil Sandalwood | \$250 | " \$350 |
| " Rosa | \$50 | " \$160 |
| " Cassia | \$150 | " — |
| Raisins | \$8 | " — |
| Senna Leaves | \$3 | " \$5.50 |
| Sandalwood | \$29 | " \$30 |
| Saltpetre | \$11 | " \$12 |

FREIGHT.

Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Report of the 2nd August, 1906, states:—Our Home and Freight Market is in a very bad way, taking it all round, and there is practically no cargo worth speaking of going in any direction. The high rate of exchange, and the high prices ruling for produce, are the main causes at the bottom of this very unsatisfactory state of affairs, and there will be little done until one or the other, or both, come down to working level. Coastwise:—We are still unable to report any improvement in coast rates; everything seems at a standstill and is likely to remain so for some time until the Autumn trade commences, i.e. the cotton season with Japan and the export to the North, which generally increases towards the closing of the Northern Ports for the Winter.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 46/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 41/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) 32/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) Tea 39/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (overland) Tea 3/- 11½ cents per lb. gross, plus river freight. To Shanghai Tea and General Cargo Tls. 1.60 to 1.80 per ton weight or measurement.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, Aug. 10th.

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| ON LONDON.— | |
| Telegraphic Transfer | 2/1 3/4 |
| Bank Bills, on demand | 2/1 3/4 |
| Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight | 2/1 3/4 |
| ON LONDON.— | |
| Bank Bills at 4 months' sight | 2/1 3/4 |
| Credits, at 4 months' sight | 2/1 3/4 |
| Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight | 2/1 3/4 |
| ON PARIS.—Bank Bills, on demand | 246 |
| Credits 4 months' sight | 270 |
| ON GERMANY.—On demand | 216 1/2 |
| ON NEW YORK.—Bank Bills, on demand | 51 1/2 |
| Credits, 60 days' sight | 52 1/2 |
| ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer | 158 |
| Bank, on demand | 158 1/2 |
| ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer | 158 |
| Bank, on demand | 158 1/2 |
| ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight | 72 1/2 |
| Private, 30 days' sight | 73 1/2 |
| ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand | 103 1/2 |
| ON MANILA.—On demand | 103 |
| ON SINGAPORE.—On demand | 10 1/2 p.c.p.m. |
| ON BATAVIA.—On demand | 127 1/2 |
| ON HAIPHONG.—On demand | 2 1/2 p.c.p.m. |
| ON SAIGON.—On demand | 2 p.c.p.m. |
| ON BANGKOK.—On demand | 61 1/2 |
| SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate | \$9.40 |
| GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael | \$49.60 |
| BAR SILVER, per oz. | 30 1/2 |

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

August—

ARRIVALS.

- 6, Akashi Maru, Jap. str., from Anping.
- 6, Alesia, German str., from Yokohama.
- 6, Armand Behic, Fr. str., from Yokohama.
- 6, Calabria, Italian cruiser, from Amoy.
- 6, Caledonien, French str., from Marseilles.
- 6, Ceylon Maru, Jap. str., from Bombay.
- 6, Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 6, Erithjof, Norwegian str., from Tamsui.
- 6, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
- 6, Helene, German str., from Swatow.
- 6, Huichow, British str., from Tientsin.
- 6, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
- 6, Kanagawa Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
- 6, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
- 6, Nikko Maru, Jap. str., from Australia.
- 6, Patroclus, British str., from Yokohama.
- 6, Taikosan Maru, Jap. str., from K'otsu.
- 6, Vienna, British str., from Calcutta.
- 6, Progress, Ger. str., from Kwangchow.
- 6, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
- 7, Erroll, British str., from Singapore.
- 7, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 7, Kiukiang, British str., from Canton.
- 7, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.
- 7, Kweiyang, British str., from Canton.
- 7, Machew, German str., from Bangkok.
- 7, Pronto, Norwegian str., from Newchwang.
- 7, Scandia, German str., from Hamburg.
- 7, Suisang, British str., from Calcutta.
- 7, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., from Nagasaki.
- 8, Benledi, British str., from London.
- 8, Bingo Maru, Japanese str., from London.
- 8, Haimun, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 8, Joshi Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
- 8, Lydia, German str., from Moji.
- 9, Chingwo, British str., from Liverpool.
- 9, Hongwoh, British str., from Straits.
- 9, Keongwai, German str., from Swatow.
- 9, Malta, British str., from London.
- 9, Meefow, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 9, Patrol, Brit. cable str., from cable ground.
- 9, Shaohsing, British str., from Shanghai.

August—

DEPARTURES.

- 6, Caledonien, French str., for Shanghai.
- 6, Eastern, British str., for Yokohama.
- 6, Hailar, French str., for Hoihow.
- 6, Wingsang, British str., for Haiphong.
- 7, America Maru, Jap. str., for S. Francisco.
- 7, Armand Behic, French str., for Europe.
- 7, Choysang, British str., for Canton.
- 7, Devawongse, German str., for Bangkok.
- 7, Huichow, British str., for Canton.
- 7, Lightning, British str., for Calcutta.
- 7, Pelous, British str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Siberien, Danish str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Taming, British str., for Manila.
- 7, Tjilatjap, Dutch str., for Yokohama.
- 8, Alesia, German str., for Hamburg.
- 8, Ceylon Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
- 8, Dakotah, British str., for San Francisco.

- 8, Erithjof, Norwegian str., for Tamsui.
- 8, Germania, German str., for Sourabaya.
- 8, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
- 8, Helene, German str., for Hoihow.
- 8, Kanagawa Maru, Jap. str., for London.
- 8, Kiukiang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Kweiyang, British str., for Newchwang.
- 8, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Nikko Maru, Japanese str., for Japan.
- 8, Progress, Ger. str., for Kwangchow.
- 8, Pronto, Norwegian str., for Canton.
- 8, Tartar, British str., for Vancouver.
- 9, Erroll, British str., for Yokohama.
- 9, Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.
- 9, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
- 9, Ormley, British str., for Batavia.
- 9, Patroclus, British str., for London.
- 9, Scandia, German str., for Kobe.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per *Kaifong*, from Cebu, &c. Mr. and Mrs. Robbins, Mr. and Mrs. Briggs and 3 children.
 Per *Eastern*, from Australia for Hongkong Messrs. J. H. Osborne, W. R. Lawrence, W. Gonda, Hon. G. P. Thirkell, Mrs. A. Weigall, Messrs. Adelino A. de S. Ripardo, F. de Medeiros Moura, Jose Maria Bray, E. F. Franklin Alvares D. V. E. Borges, Mario A. T. Borges, P. Manuel B. de Jesus, F. P. C. da Silva, Reis H. Ayer, Jose Augusto Machado, Bernardino Matthews, Julia Catian, for Shanghai, Messrs. F. L. Breton, Adela Flores, Milagros Passer and H. Harris; for Yokohama, Messrs. A. E. Allan, W. E. Anderson, T. E. Anderson, J. Greenfield, Mrs. Longworth, Mrs. Murray, Mr. Murray, Miss M. Murdoch, Miss Woodin; for Kobe, Mr. Wm. Campbell.

Per *Choysang*, from Shanghai, Messrs. Baker, Barnett and Piercy.

Per *Kanagawa Maru*, from Shanghai, Deputy Inspector General and Mrs. Grinlette, Miss Alloway, Major and Mrs. O. Bundy, Mr. R. J. Puff, Mr. and Mrs. S. Clarke.

Per *Nikko Maru*, from Australia for Hongkong, Messrs. N. C. Stephen, C. Parbury, M. P. Fox, D. T. Lloyd, H. H. Scovel, R. A. Brown, and Dr. Balls Headley; for Shanghai, Mr. G. P. Smith; for Kobe, Mr. Eskey Lukushima, Mr. and Mrs. T. D. Wright, Miss Wright, Miss Walker, for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Pearce, Mr. R. A. Galletly, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Mitchell, Miss Wright, Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Ffolliott, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rogers, Messrs. George Anderson and R. A. Yates, Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick.

Per *Caledonien*, for Hongkong from Marseilles, Messrs. de la Rama and Zaragoza; from Colombo, Mr. Manetjes; from Singapore, Messrs. Cully, Thickett, Melor, Watkins, from Saigon, Messrs. Hoppe, Dixon, Serizier, Denunier, Gerrioux; for Shanghai from Marseilles, Messrs. Griffiths, Lunan, Briol and Moroni; from Port Said, Messrs. Stratin and Demostene; from Singapore, Mr. L. Base and Mrs. Corlou and 2 children; from Saigon, Mr. Morel, Mrs. and Miss Morel, Messrs. Goldman, Lencien and El Denoz; for Kobe from Colombo, Mr. Erza; for Yokohama from Marseilles, Messrs. Bernard and Ferand, Mr. and Mrs. d'Erboer; from Colombo, Messrs. Bedevar and Commell; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Conneris, Sister Theresa; from Saigon, Messrs. Barousse and Suzu Fato.

Per *Armand Behic*, for Hongkong from Kobe, Mr. J. de Gast; from Shanghai, Messrs. Chill, A. M. Silva, Marquez de Silva, Mrs. Schurderman, Mr. Germain; for Saigon from Shanghai Mrs. Goldenberg; for Singapore from Shanghai, Mr. Feinstein and daughter, Messrs. Erlich, Wainberg, Haim Pomerang, Miss Clara, Mrs. F. Weinstein, Messrs. Schick, D. Konig, J. Schowarz, P. Metzger, J. Konig, S. Fadel, H. Kohler, J. Hohnberger, O'Leahard, Lapadimitri and W. Whitehead; for Colombo from Kobe, Mr. Kinsidi; from Shanghai, Mrs. C. Kramer; for Port Said from Shanghai, Mr. Ricardo Lafuente, Mrs. Rosenblatt; for Marseilles from Yokohama, Messrs. Favreau and Dalas; from Kobe, Mr. Maurice Allix; from Shanghai, Messrs. Mouniat, Pouchet, Barke Honan, F. Imbourg, Louis Roses, Mrs. Gaggero, Messrs. Cantiere, Ventre, Isidore, J. Sutter, Aron Moze, Mrs. Ismail, Mrs. Cates and child, Mr. Abraham.

Per *Loongsang*, from Manila, Miss A. K. Buck, Messrs. C. B. Lehmer, Allen S. Sublet.

S. L. Kidder, D. A. Calhoun, A. L. Loper, Donald McCrae, and Benjamin B. Bramell.

Per *Zafiro*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. J. Park, Mrs. O. de Coates and four children, Mrs. I. Lorente, Mrs. R. de la Vina, Miss S. Lorente, Miss A. Lorente, Miss C. de la Vina, Messrs. A. Ramos, H. E. Reed, R. B. Cameron, H. Collado, Grady, Castro, T. Dehl, and P. de Leon.

Per *Yawata Maru*, from Nagasaki, Messrs. J. White, J. H. Hemperly, G. Got, and Miss W. Gray.

Per *Haimun*, from Coast Ports, Mrs. Thompson, Master Anderson, Reva. Martinez and Gonzalez, Mr. Weir Meyer.

Per *Malta*, for Hongkong from London, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Hooper and child, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Blackman, Lieut. W. H. Holgren; from Marseilles, Messrs. H. R. Nicol and Seggie; from Malta, Mr. F. J. Gelethorpe; from Gibraltar, Dr. J. A. P. Amaral; from Aden, Lieut. D. Percival; from Penang, Mr. and Mrs. P. S. Lanrie; from Singapore, Mr. H. A. Jones; for Shanghai from London, Messrs. J. M. McHutchon, C. A. G. Roberts, Wybert Smith, Clifford (4) and child, H. S. Consens, J. W. Ingledew and A. F. Grimbler; for Yokohama from London, Mr. Pugh.

Per *Bingo Maru*, from London, &c. for Hongkong, Messrs. D. Nicholson and J. Love; for Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. H. Smith and infant; for Yokohama, Count and Countess Hiasamatsu, Capt. K. Tanaka, B. Iwata, R. Toki, Mr. and Mrs. H. Gully, Dr. K. Sasaki.

DEPARTED.

Per *Rubi*, for Manila, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Sardy, Capt. and Mrs. B. A. Poore, Misses P. and A. Poore, Messrs. J. A. King, R. W. Oakes, A. Tinker, G. R. Summers, J. T. Nox, J. Reyes, W. P. Biddle, J. T. Lorby, J. E. Valentine, P. M. Bonner, E. T. Bishop, J. S. Dausser, W. J. Fosburg, E. J. Murphy, J. Mateo, Miss W. S. Scombe, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Ross, Messrs. Turnbull, H. Hafemann, Holden, Mr. and Mrs. Sprungli.

Per *America Maru*, for San Francisco, &c., Mr. C. B. McClafferty, Mr. and Mrs. G. Tisseyre, Messrs. G. A. Jagger, G. A. Moffitt, J. H. P. Mason, Mr. and Mrs. Fleming Fell, Messrs. F. D. Barretto, C. A. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Lindsay, Mr. Alfred Lindsay, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Robbins, Miss M. Robbins, Mrs. C. W. Briggs and child, Miss Hilda Briggs, Mr. J. Greenfield, Monsieur Servizier, Messrs. D. T. Lloyd, Allen S. Sublett, B. B. Bramell, E. W. Provence and F. W. Weller.

Per *Armand Behic*, for Saigon, Mr. Demaretz; for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Baird and Mr. H. P. Lyons; for Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Gibbs; for Marseilles, Mrs. Berindague, Messrs. Adam Wright, D. P. Shields, Hermano Duarte-Prata.

Per *Caledonien*, for Shanghai, Messrs. J. Sanoayre, Louis Vangarnier, W. Schadd and Menotto.

Per *Kanagawa Maru*, for London, &c., Major K. Inoue, Staff Surgeon S. Kajira, Dr. S. Kudo, Mr. E. Robinson, Major-General T. Tasaka, Prof. S. Kimura, Mr. C. G. King, Mr. and Mrs. James Park.

Per *Nikko Maru*, for Japan, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. E. Pearce, Staff Surgeon Bell, R.N., Mr. R. A. Galletly, Dr. W. V. M. Koch, Lieut. A. G. R. Hannay, R.E., Capt. E. Seddon, R.A., Messrs. Albert Schnell and O. Sherer, Major H. B. Ford, Capt. H. Boulton, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Mitchell, Mr. M. Cohen, Miss Wright, Lieut. G. H. Becton-Foster, R.A., Mr. W. Campbell, Rev. and Mrs. C. H. Hickling, Lieut. J. H. Farill, Major and Mrs. T. P. Jones and child, Miss Walker, Mr. and Mrs. T. D. Wright, Miss Wright, Mr. G. Anderson, Lieut. Cummings, R.A., Lieut. Issard, R.A., Lieut. Col. C. S. Sparkes, R.A.M.C., Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Ffolliott, Mr. and Mrs. C. Rogers, Dr. Balls Headley, Messrs. R. A. Yates and G. Reyes.

Per *Tartar*, for Vancouver, &c., Mr. C. J. Farrow, Messrs. J. H. Thickett, Lehmer, G. B. Osborne, Mrs. Farmer and children, Messrs. A. W. Morse, H. Jackson, G. P. Smith, J. Hutchings, Calhoun, Stupersky, Miss Buck, Mrs. Wakefield.

Printed and published by BERTRAM AUGUSTUS HALE for the Concerned, at 10A, Des Voeux Road Central, City of Victoria, Hongkong. London Office 131, Fleet Street, E.C.